PENTHOUSE

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MEN

NOVEMBER 2016

ETHAN HAWKE

INSIDE THE FUTURE OF WARFARE

DITA VON TEESE BARES ALL

THE DESIGN ISSUE

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HIGHLIFE: URBAN FUTURES

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FROM THE EDITOR

DO ME a favour and grab your phone. Without looking at it, you could probably tell me how many buttons it has on the front.

Now, think back, back to when your mobile phone had a monophonic ringtone, minimal functionality, that one game 'Snake' and a whole lot of buttons.

Somewhere along the way our phones went from glorified pocket bricks to portable computers that connect us to the world beyond – our friends, YouTube and, most importantly, useless memes.

Ten points if you've figured out what I'm alluding to here. Yes, design is everywhere (and this issues theme). It's what you wear, what you live in and what you drive.

It's an intrinsic part of your life, for better, or worse. Many of us will only notice how something is designed when it fails to function as per its design. In other words, good design makes our life easy. Bad design makes our lives hell.

Few figures are more significant than German industrial designer Dieter Rams. His design philosophy, 'less is more', changed the world. The man was, after all, the influence behind Apple's iconic designs.

If one man with a vision can change the world, then what of an organisation with infinite resources? The future of warfare is being designed today and it's big and shiny and lethal. We take a look at the future of warfare and the killing machines of tomorrow. The future is here, and it comes with a big, expensive bang.

Speaking of tomorrow, spring is here so it's time to get styled. Look great and know your shit next time you head out with this month's style guide, flick to Bespoke for more. Afterwards, follow the grape vine to Good Taste for the only Guide to Wine you'll ever need. We'll have you talking and walking like a boss in no time.

Still hungry? There is a Q&A with burlesque queen Dita Von Teese, an interplanetary Photo Essay, world records
you can break on your lunch break and a whole lot more.

Stay classy, man.

Nathan Harmond
Editor

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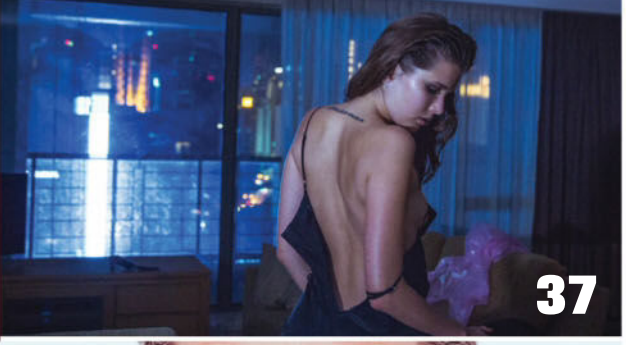
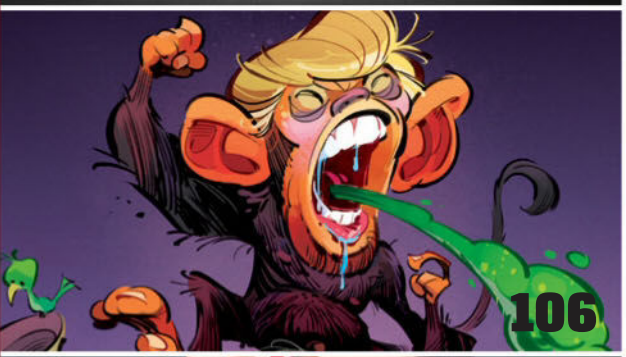
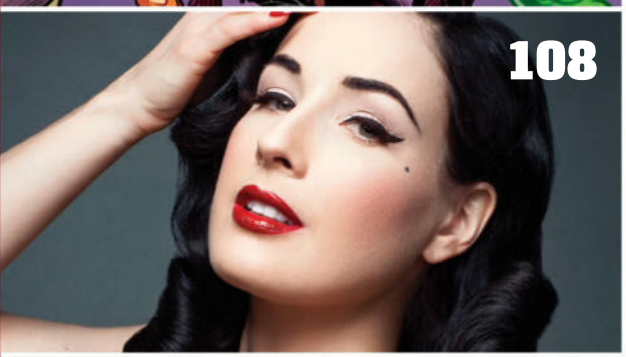
BLURRED LINES







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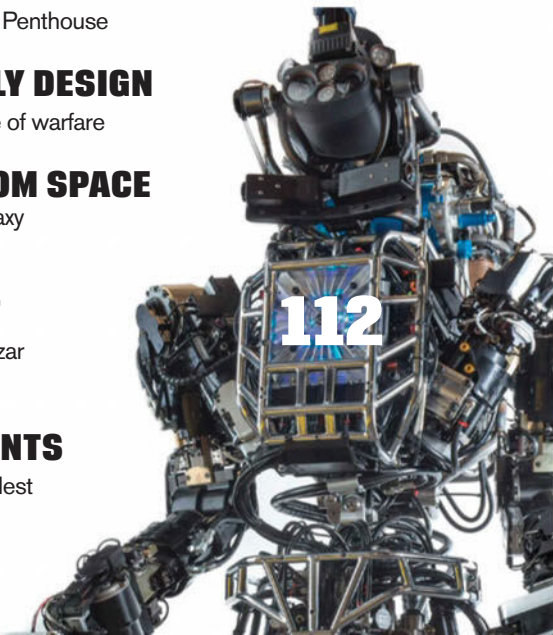

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SPRING RACING CARNIVAL

AUG – NOV

The Spring Racing Carnival is the premier event on the Australian racing calendar, and one of the best-known carnivals in the world. With top-level races including the Caulfield Cup, the Cox Plate and the 'race that stops a nation', the Melbourne Cup, the Spring Carnival is an unrivalled month of racing, fashion, fun and entertainment.

5 YEARS OF ASTRAL SYDNEY

22 OCT

In the five years since Astral People was founded by Tom Huggett, Leron Danilewitz and Vichara Edirisinghe – after a late night meeting a pizza parlour – the team have gone on to present some of the most significant, young and gifted musicians across the country, paving the way for the thriving community of emerging artists that has turned heads and pricked up ears across the globe. Come celebrate 5 years of Astral.

HANNIBAL BURESS SYDNEY

2 DEC

Hannibal Buress announced his new national stand-up comedy tour, *The Hannibal Montanabal Experience*,

visiting venues across Australia this December. *The Hannibal Montanabal Experience* follows Hannibal's highly rated third hour-long stand-up special, *Comedy Camisado*, as well as standout roles in numerous fan-favourite film and television comedies.

THE COLOR RUN MELBOURNE

27 NOV

The Color Run Tropicolor World Tour 2016 marks the fifth anniversary of The Color Run. Get ready to celebrate with more fun, more sun, and even more colors for you and your friends to experience together.
Participants will experience an all-new Tropicolor Zone™ on course, where they will be bathed in a tropical array of colors and delicious island scents as they pass through the shade of palm trees, arches, and island-style music.

REGURGITATOR NATIONAL

OCT - NOV

Regurgitator have announced that they are heading out on the road at the end of the year playing a handful of dates around the country. This nine date tour will take them all around the country with seemingly no real reason for it other than it's definitely time for another *Regurgitator* tour

OKTOBERFEST MELBOURNE

22 - 23 NOV

Inspired by a deep love of the traditional Bavarian festival and great beer, Oktoberfest in the Gardens features two massive big top beer halls, authentic German food stalls, roving performers at sideshow alley, silent disco and an eclectic mix of entertainment and on stage competitions across multiple stages throughout the afternoon and evening. You'll be able to taste your way across Europe with a large selection of imported German beer, cider, wine and a range of other beverages.

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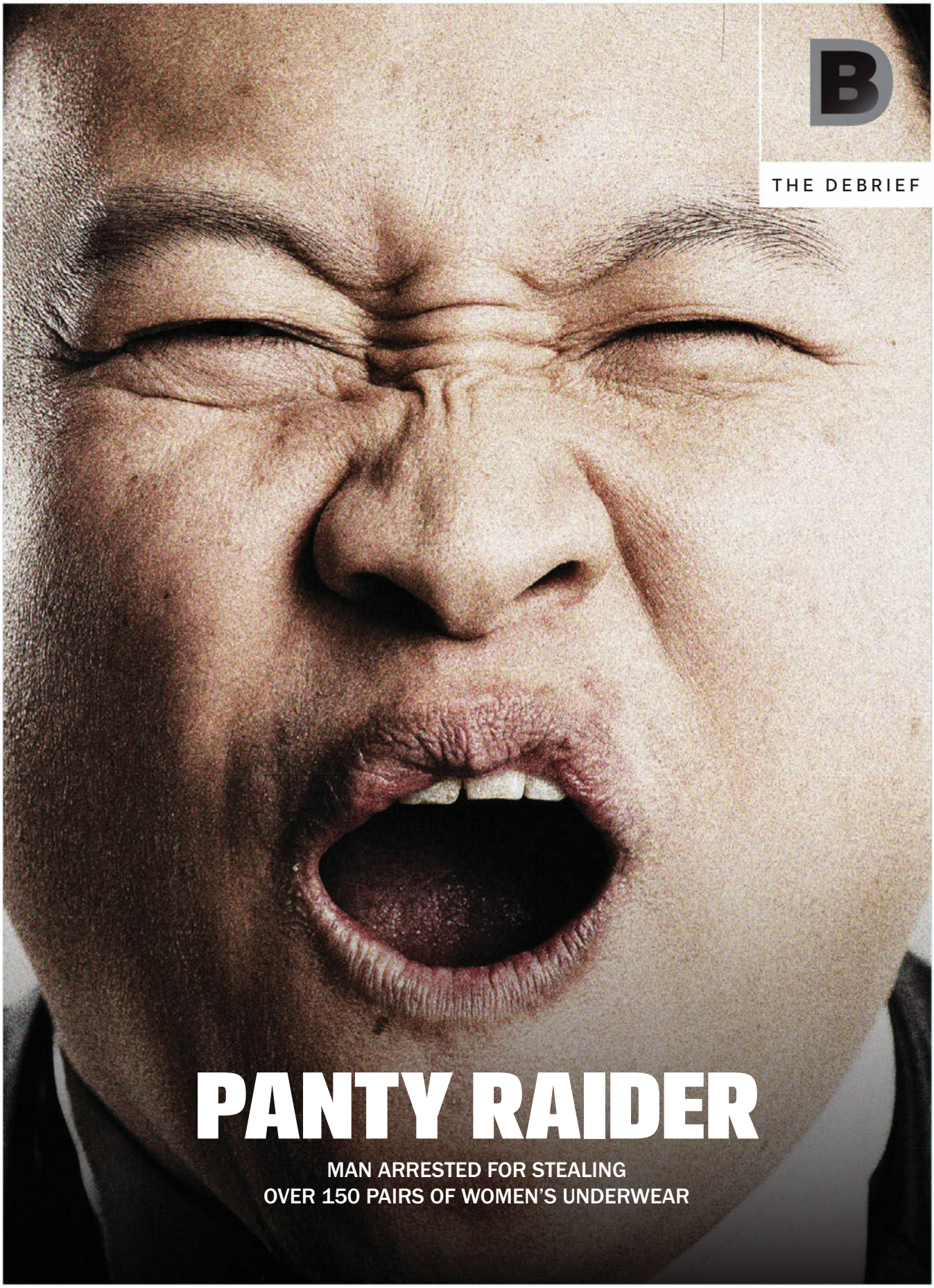


PANTY RAIDER

MAN ARRESTED FOR STEALING OVER 150 PAIRS OF WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR

PHOTO: ISTOCK

WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

JAPANESE PANTY RAIDER BUSTED

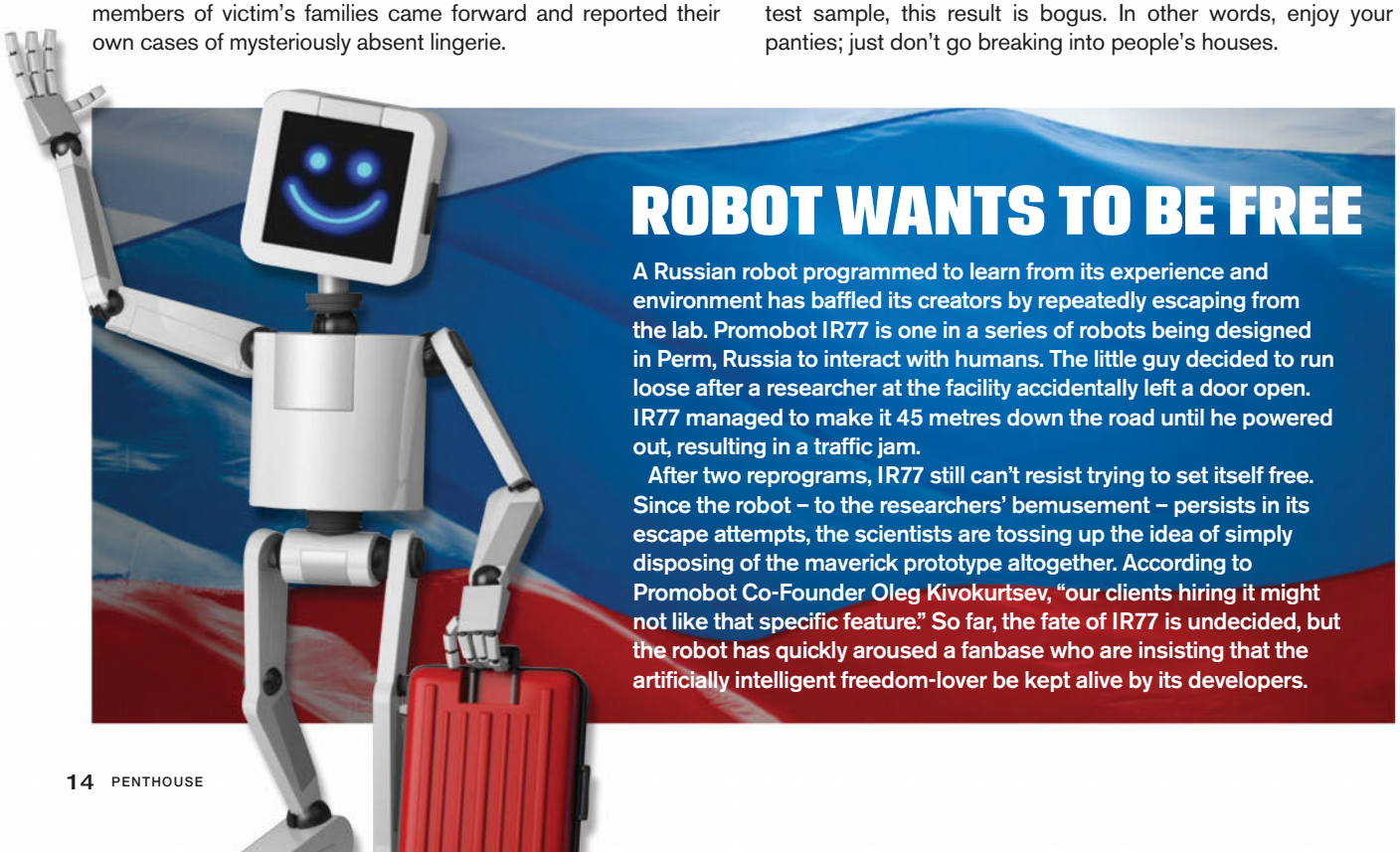
TO an outsider, the Japanese are a weird lot. They are known to be intensely private, while at the same time, notoriously open with their, well – let's just say it – weird sexual fetishes. We're not ones to judge (trust us) – but tentacle porn? That's why it came as no surprise to discover that a Japanese farmer had been arrested for stealing over 150 pairs of women's underwear. What's more, the man was wearing a pair of the stolen undergarments when police detained him.

The 63-year-old Fumio Takashi was questioned by police at his home in Motusu, in Japan's Gifu prefecture, after trying to break into the garage of an 84-year-old man, allegedly to steal underwear that was left there to dry. He was charged with trespassing and attempted theft. His house was raided when members of victim's families came forward and reported their own cases of mysteriously absent lingerie.

Takashi, clearly not ashamed, reportedly told police, "I've done this several times." A confession we presume he made while wearing the latest line from Victoria's Secret.

Underwear fetishism is not uncommon, and in Japan at least, where you can buy used women's underwear from vending machines, it's not particularly taboo. Scientists from the Land of the Rising Sun even conducted a study to try and understand why certain men just can't get enough of women's panties. They ultimately concluded, after performing an MRI exam on one solo panty pirate, that the desire was caused by a decreased blood flow to the brain.

If panties are your thing, there's no reason to call your doctor, though – most scientists would agree that, because of the small test sample, this result is bogus. In other words, enjoy your panties; just don't go breaking into people's houses.



ROBOT WANTS TO BE FREE

A Russian robot programmed to learn from its experience and environment has baffled its creators by repeatedly escaping from the lab. Promobot IR77 is one in a series of robots being designed in Perm, Russia to interact with humans. The little guy decided to run loose after a researcher at the facility accidentally left a door open. IR77 managed to make it 45 metres down the road until he powered out, resulting in a traffic jam.

After two reprograms, IR77 still can't resist trying to set itself free. Since the robot – to the researchers' bemusement – persists in its escape attempts, the scientists are tossing up the idea of simply disposing of the maverick prototype altogether. According to Promobot Co-Founder Oleg Kivokurtsev, "our clients hiring it might not like that specific feature." So far, the fate of IR77 is undecided, but the robot has quickly aroused a fanbase who are insisting that the artificially intelligent freedom-lover be kept alive by its developers.

PHOTO: ISTOCK / MONSITI ISTOCK / VIDEOLOGIA

TEENAGER POSSESSED BY DEMON IN MEXICO

A YOUNG Teenager in Montemorelis, Mexico has developed a hair-raising, demonic "growl" which he can't shake. The boy, known as Said, was apparently possessed by three demons which resulted in his new Satanic voice. After sending his family into shock, they called upon medics to come and alleviate his condition but, to their dismay, there was nothing they could do to help. The logical next step was to summon the local religious authorities and, as it turns out, it was just another classic case of "demonic possession".

A priest of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Monterrey led an hour-long exorcism on Said as he howled and struggled on a chair.

The incident – caught on camera – is causing quite a stir with online publications and internet junkies alike. But if the past is any guide, we should probably take this episode with a grain of salt. If we recall back to the 70s when Anneliese Michel was possessed by demons, what we were actually looking at was an epileptic girl in her early 20s suffering from severe mental illness. Following a year of secret exorcisms, this sad story ended in her death by malnutrition and dehydration. Her family and the priest involved were subsequently found guilty of negligent homicide.

So far the outcome of Said's exorcism isn't clear, although in all likelihood this kid is either mentally disturbed or faking it. Or maybe his balls are just dropping.

PHOTO: ISTOCK / MILAN ZEREMSKI INSERT: YOUTUBE ISTOCK / MAX-KEGFIRE

LIVING THE DREAM

In a tale of living in the moment, a construction worker in England let loose after he was overpaid an astonishing £40,000. When Steven Burke opened his bank account, instead of the £446.60 he was supposed to receive, a rookie payroll error led to a sizeable £44,660 in Burke's savings. Rather than reporting the discrepancy, he decided to take a gambit and live like a king for a short time. But it was only a dream, as Burke may now be facing jail time if he can't pay back all the money he blew. According to the Prosecutor Katy Barlow, at the court of Scarborough, North Yorkshire "He spent the money on a car, an electronic-cigarette, hotel rooms, designer clothes, a gold chain, cocaine and vodka as well as online gambling."

It's hard to blame Burke for holding onto the money and hoping he could slip through the cracks. Although in the end he got caught, the man just played it cool and presented a defence that, at face value, wasn't half bad: Burke claimed that he thought he was just a lucky "victim of cyber crime." Total bullshit, but hell, it was worth a shot! If his company was dumb enough one day to unwittingly fork out an extra 40K to some low-end construction worker, there was also a chance that they could've been dumb enough to let him get away with it.

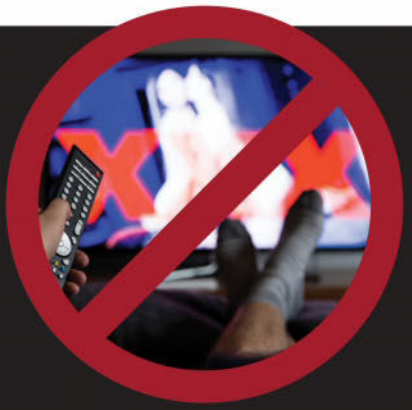
CANADIAN MAN PUNCHES OUT BEAR

IT'S a choice between bailing on your dog or coming to blows with a bear, most of us are gonna think "fuck the dog, he's on his own here". However, Rick Nelson – now possibly the ballsiest guy on Earth – saw things a bit differently. While walking his dog, Maggie, through the Lake Panache wilderness of Canada, his day was interrupted by a considerably pissed off black bear. Upon hiking up the top of a ravine and tying Maggie to a tree, a bear cub suddenly wandered out of the bushes. And it wasn't long until mother bear followed suit and came charging at them.

Nelson had the option of narrowly escaping by climbing down a nearby cliff, but he didn't want to leave Maggie behind. Instead, he shaped up and battled it out with the creature. Nelson – a 61-year old man – is a former boxer who still trains regularly at home, and the brawl was over in two rounds.

Round 1: The bear hooks Nelson's left shoulder with its paw causing a nasty deep cut, though Nelson retaliates with a blow to the bear's mouth (causing great injury to his knuckle). The bear goes down. Round 2: Mother bear comes to her feet again and throws another swing at Nelson, except he dodges it and responds with a hard uppercut to the snout. According to Nelson, "It (then) just sat down on its butt…but in that moment, when it turned around and looked at me, I thought, 'Ah, shit.' You know? What's it going to do? But right then the cub called again. And the bear just turned around and walked away, like it had never even met me."

Now Nelson will go down in history as the only known man to throw down with Earth's most powerful terrestrial animal and actually come out on top, who else can say that?



THE RISE OF FAPOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

ALEXANDER Rhodes, the man who founded the porn-addicts anonymous website known as "NoFap", is expanding business after his father bought the St. Clement Church in Tarentum, Pennsylvania. Since quitting his job as a data analyst at Google, he believes he's had a higher calling and wants to use the Church as an operations base to extend the cause of helping compulsive masturbators and porn junkies kick the habit. Following years of personal struggle, Rhodes decided that porn-addiction had ruined his life, relationships, and mental health, driving him to start an online community that reached out to people with a similar problem.

Rhodes' mission may be demanding literally the impossible: daring men to stop jacking off. Although, since this is such a serious step in the direction of helping people who just can't stop typing "Bukkake" and "Lisa Ann" into their web browsers, it's entirely possible that more branches for porn addiction therapy crop up in the near future. While he's is trying to distance himself from religious affiliations (keeping the support service open and secular), in an age of ubiquitous money shots and motorboating overflowing the internet, Rhodes represents a saint for men everywhere who are furiously fapping their lives to failure.

PHOTO: ISTOCK / SEREAD ISTOCK / TARIK KIZILKAYA

CONSCRIPTING WOMEN

FOR males in the US – whether you're a citizen or an immigrant – it is legally required to register with the Selective Service System: a government agency that deals with personal information in case the draft was ever reinstated. Now, in an age of gender "equality", women soon may have to sign up as well. The American Senate recently approved the "National Defense Authorisation Act" (passing 85-13) that would make it mandatory for women to come under the SSS register and potentially be conscripted during "wartime" periods.

It's no surprise that the bill has attracted a great deal of criticism and controversy. While the amendment needs to go undergo further review before it's enacted, with the Whitehouse even "threatening" to veto the proposal, chances are the legislation will be realised given how many Senators expressed support for the change.

So long to the days of when the Titanic sunk and men stayed behind, while the women and children were rescued to shore. Soon, if the time ever comes, women may have to forcibly take up arms alongside men and drown with the ship.

DRINKING BLOOD COULD KILL YOU (YOU AREN'T A VAMPIRE)

HAVE you ever thought of yourself as a dark and/or brooding character? One that feels as though the night is their only true friend, and that their pallid, pasty complexion makes them sexy and suave? Do you hang out in dungeons with latex-clad folk and muse on the limits of depravity? Well, if you've ever considered drinking blood just to see what it's like, you may want to limit it to a teaspoon or so, because it's actually toxic.

The essential juice is very healthy, especially when kept within the correct conduits – i.e. blood vessels – but as soon as you drink it down like a warm viscous soup, you may find yourself in a little trouble.

Haemochromatosis or IRON OVERLOAD is what will probably happen to you, resulting in liver damage, testicular failure, and bronzing of the skin. So drinking blood will give you a tan. How's that for iron-ic? *sigh*

While there are animals that subsist on a diet of blood, the Vampire Bat, for example, these creatures have developed mechanisms for dealing with excess iron before it gets into their bloodstream and causes any physiological problems.

There are thousands of humans throughout the world claiming the health benefits of drinking the iron enriched liquid, some of them even go as far as to attack victims in the night. However, unless they've been the subject of some kind mad scientist type of gene-splicing activity, these people are probably living in a fantasy world from the last century. For your own safety, we recommend sticking to blue steak to sate your blood lust.

PHOTO: ISTOCK / ROMAN KANIN ISTOCK / ALIJA

WEINER JOINT

NAKED dining is not for everyone. Or at least according to The Amrita, a nudist restaurant that just opened in Tokyo. Sanskrit for "immortality," The Amrita is a place where patrons can fork out 80,000 yen (almost 800 bucks) to dine in the nude while being served by Adonis-like male waiters in G-strings. For an additional 14,000 yen (around $130), those same waiters will dance for you, too.

To fit the bill for this exclusive diners club, patrons must be between 18 and 60 years old, within 33 pounds of the average weight for their height, and not have any tattoos. Those permitted inside are given paper underpants and asked to refrain from talking to or bothering other patrons. Phones, cameras, and other digital devices are also a big no-no. Anyone who buys a ticket and does not fit the criteria will be refused entry, with no refund. The protocol may seem harsh, but as Miki Komatsu, a spokeswoman for The Amrita, explained, "If fat people are allowed in, it could be miserable for some guests."

THE PHOTOBOMBER

FOR those terrible days after a weeklong bender, when your face feels like it's been grafted from a corpse and you'd rather be invisible, we present to you the ISHU paparazzi-proof scarf. While it won't bend light around you or render you unseeable, this swatch of textile technology will ruin any photo taken using a flash.

Pioneered by Dutch-born fashion entrepreneur Saif Siddiqui, the ISHU has won over a number of celebrities who are looking to take back a smidgen of privacy without having to hide behind their hands.

The scarf is made of a special fabric that reflects light back at the camera so intensely that the subject of the photo appears only as a black blob – albeit a black blob wearing a fashionable geometric-patterned scarf. Even if taken during broad daylight, or in a well-lit supermarket, it'll still be the most forgiving photo you could hope for when assaulted by a large insect with a camera.

MAMA HAD A BABY...

IT turns out that not all mothers in the animal kingdom are as protective as you might expect. Kangaroos, for example, may eject a baby joey from the pouch if threatened by a predator, in order to save itself. Furthermore, if the mother kanga is still unable to escape, it may even throw the baby at the predator to assist in its getaway.

It may seem harsh, but in an evolutionary/survival-of-the-fittest sense, the mother is ensuring that she lives on to breed and further her gene pool. The baby must be sacrificed for the greater good. This behavior is known as filial infanticide, and has been exhibited by quite a few species. Monkeys might drop their offspring from trees if they believe they won't be fit enough for their social group. Other animals, like cats and spiders, have been known to commit filial cannibalism, as in eating their babies.

Ovicide is also known to occur, which involves the destruction of eggs, often by ingestion. Then there's spermicide, which doesn't actually have anything to do with this article. We just want to go on record and say that we are comfortable with the destruction of sperm by ingestion. It feels right.

PHOTOS: ISTOCK; SCARF IMAGE VIA ISHU.COM

WHAT WAS ONCE IN THE DEEP
IS NOW IN THE SHALLOWS
THE
SHALLOWS
COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS A WEIMARANER REPUBLIC PICTURES/OMBRA FILMS PRODUCTION A FILM BY JAUME COLLET-SERRA "THE SHALLOWS" BLAKE LIVELY MUSIC BY MARCO BELTRAMI
COSTUME DESIGNER KYM BARRETT EDITED BY JOEL NEGRON, ACE PRODUCTION DESIGNER HUGH BATEUP DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FLAVIO LABIANO EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DOUG MERRIFIELD JAUME COLLET-SERRA WRITTEN BY ANTHONY JASWINSKI
THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED.
FOR FUTURE INFO GO TO FILMRATINGS.COM
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SUMMER
DIRECTED BY JAUME COLLET-SERRA
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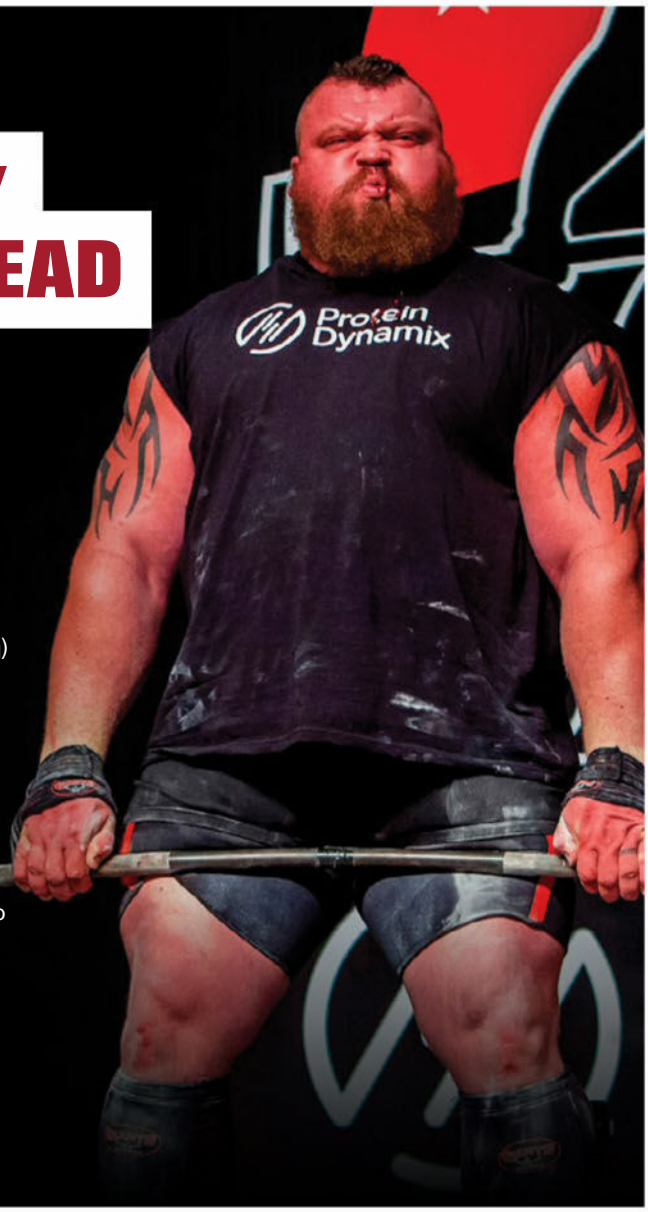
HALF-TONNE DEADLIFT NEARLY CAUSES MAN'S HEAD TO EXPLODE



A COMPETITIVE strongman from England has broken the world record for deadlifting, managing to get 500kg off the ground. But it wasn't without effort. In fact, his nose started bleeding, and as concerned audience members looked on, the behemoth promptly put down the weights and passed out.

He had the crowd a little worried for a moment, but he got back up and rose as the lifter of the heaviest weight in human history. The record was actually smashed, about 5 stone (32kg) more than the previous record. That nice round half-tonne certainly has an appealing ring to it, at least enough to make you willing to explode your brain, it seems.

Blood vessels were indeed exploding in his head, confirmed Eddie Hall, the 28-year-old who made history this year at the Leeds Arena.

"It's that great feeling, like the first man on the moon, the first man to run a mile in under four minutes. And now I'm the first to deadlift half a tonne. It's history and I'm very proud to be a part of it."

Eddie, also known by his moniker, *The Beast*, didn't compete in the Europe Crown after the lift, but plans to lift again.

"The World's Strongest Man title is my dream", he said. "And I will keep pushing the limits until that happens. It's going to happen."

Aneurysms aside, this man seems set to take over the weightlifting world, one near-death experience at a time.

SCHOOLYARD FITNESS TIPS

SO it turns out that your Ab-Master 3000 may not be the best or fastest method to having a washing implement for a stomach this summer. Research has found that schoolyard activities burn a significantly higher amount of energy compared to the typical activities prescribed for fitness.

Skipping for 15 minutes, for example, will burn approximately 215 calories (900 kJ), compared to running, which will only lose you 150 cal (625 kJ) in the same amount of time.

It's all about energetic bursts (aka interval training) and targeting diverse muscle groups, according to Fitness First manager, Andy McTaggart. This is what kids do when they're fooling around in the playground.

"They accelerate quickly in one direction, change direction, slow down, stop and then speed up again. This is what we call interval training, and it means your body and metabolism function at a higher rate of burned calories for hours and hours afterwards." The games they play and activities they do also tend to put the body through its full range of movement compared to repetitive exercises conducted in typical exercise regimes, like simply jogging, doing push-ups etc. This, in turn, engages more muscle groups as they do so, and works the body holistically, burning more energy, and creating a greater balance of strength and proportion between the muscles.

While we're not suggesting you go down to the local primary school and engage in a game of tip with the kids at recess, you may want to consider some more dynamic activities to get into shape instead of doing sit-ups until it hurts to breathe.

IT'S GOT A BIT OF A KICK TO IT

IT seems like something from an epic and expensive ad for Jim Beam, or an act of a puritanical God. There is no way to assure you that it was a coincidence, but it happened, and I'm sure anyone who was there to witness the spectacle allowed their eyebrows to curl and singe while watching on in awe-inspired pleasure.

Over in Kentucky, USA, deep in bourbon country, lightning struck a Jim Beam facility causing thousands of gallons of bourbon to spill into a nearby retention lake. Apparently, the explosion then set the Jim Beam mixer of a lake on fire like some kind of apocalyptic cocktail for titans. Finally, the flames whipped themselves up into a whirling firenado, an extremely rare and awesome natural phenomenon that everyone wants to see.

Needless to say, the lake and a nearby creek were contaminated by the incident, causing a lot of the local ecology to get extremely intoxicated and die – this was very unfortunate. Armageddon's Ale is not a drink for fish, the faint of heart, or anyone on this mortal plane, really.

In total, approximately 800,000 gallons of Jim Beam went to waste, but Hell on Earth; we dare say it was worth it.

HUMAN SKULL FETISH

THE Louisiana Department of Justice in Baton Rouge recently conducted a study which explored the sale of human skulls on eBay. The popularity of the ornamental human cranium is overwhelming; according to the *New Scientist*, "237 people listed 454 skulls for sale, with opening bids ranging from one cent to $5500". Most of the skulls are suspected to come from either India or China and a number of them apparently stolen from burial sites. Humans have always had an infatuation with adornments of death whether it's taxidermied leopards or whale skeletons that hang in museums. A human skull lying around in your personal library might be verging on something like cannibalism, even if does make you feel like Macbeth.

Ebay doesn't sanction the sale of human parts unless it's for medical purposes, but most sellers were able to get away with purveying the human skulls simply by lying in their advertising. The company has reacted to this revealing study by amending their policy, as it now states on their website: "We don't allow humans, the human body, or any human body parts or products to be listed on eBay, with the exception of items containing human scalp hair."

COOPED UP

OVER in Star Prairie, Wisconsin, Polk County police officers were investigating a suspicious back-page ad posted by 27-year-old Sarah Bradecroft in a local magazine. After arriving at her home, they were surprised to find Bradecroft holed up in a chicken coop in the back of her property. The cops were confused by her behavior (she wasn't dressed appropriately for chicken tending) and proceeded to question her.

Bradecroft admitted that she had been exchanging sex for money and conducting her business within the chicken coop, while her six children remained inside the house. Her discretion was admirable in some ways: keep business and family separate. Don't mind the chickens.

GET THE PICTURE

SAM_ the Cobra hails from Northern New Jersey. He takes beautiful photographs and produces equally amazing animations.

Sam's life aspirations? Do a backflip on every continent…

"After searching for a suitable image in my photo archive, I started editing and developing the photo as I went. I elongated the buildings to make it seem like they're taller than normal, then added a thick layer of smoky haze to mask the bottom. I cut out some cars and taxis and laid them at different layers to give some depth. This edit took roughly six hours."

See more: http://www.samthecobra.com/

MAN OF THE MOMENT

DIETER RAMS

DESIGN is everywhere – it's an irreducible aspect of life. This magazine was designed, painstakingly; the laptop, computer or mobile phone that is within arms reach of you at this very moment, was designed – not just to look pretty, but to be functional, innovative and of course, aesthetically pleasing.

Do you remember what mobile phones looked like before the iPhone came along? Ghastly things weren't they? The flip screen, maze like menus and more buttons than your local tailor. On top of that, they didn't do a whole lot. Then came along the Apple iPhone with a touch screen and a single button and everyone lost their shit.

Steve Jobs is attributed to being the man responsible for designing the iconic iPhone, but do you know the man that influenced Jobs?

Meet Dieter Rams.

For over 50 years Dieter Rams has left an indelible mark on product design and the world at large with his iconic work. His design philosophy – less is more – was the inspiration behind Apple's iconic designs. Steve Jobs and Jony Ive, the company's Senior Vice President of Industrial Design, famously admired his work.

Rams is, without a doubt, one of the most important designers of the last century.

Rams, the man who worked at Braun for almost 40 years and still does his drawings by hand without the use of a computer, did more than anyone else to popularise functional, modern mass produced design.

Dieter Rams is one of the most influential designers on the planet. Over 50 years of work with Braun and Vitsoe he's designed over 500 products, many of which you've probably owned in your lifetime.

Braun's distinctive alarm clocks, Oral-B toothbrushes, Gillette safety razors, hairdryers, coffee makers, food processors, electric shavers, irons, slide projectors, cine cameras, flashguns, and cigarette lighters sold in their millions around the world. Rams' genius has most likely played a part in your life in some way.

Dieter Rams philosophy is simple – less is more. Design should be functional, innovative, aesthetic and thorough, down to the last detail. He laid this down in his "Ten Principles of good Design", a timeless source of information and design inspiration.

Now, Rams', an individual who is notoriously private, will be at the centre of a feature length documentary titled simply, *Rams*. It is to be directed by Gary Hustwit, the filmmaker behind *Helvetica, Objectified and Urbanized*, and will showcase Rams' astonishing work.

Rams allowed this unprecedented access to his private life so that his insights and ideas can be passed down to the next generation of designers. Which is a good thing – while the world may be getting more complicated by the day, at least our designs will remain simple.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES / MARGARITA KAZANOVICH

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF
TRAINING DAY AND THE EQUALIZER
DENZEL WASHINGTON
CHRIS PRATT
ETHAN HAWKE
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN
METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURES AND COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH LSTAR CAPITAL AND VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES A PIN HIGH / ESCAPE ARTISTS PRODUCTION
A FILM BY ANTOINE FUQUA "THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN" VINCENT D'ONOFRIO BYUNG-HUN LEE PETER SARSGAARD MUSIC BY JAMES HORNER AND SIMON FRANGLEN COSTUME DESIGNER SHAREN DAVIS FILM EDITOR JOHN REFOUA, ACE
PRODUCTION DESIGNER DEREK R. HILL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MAURO FIORE, ASC EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS WALTER MIRISCH ANTOINE FUQUA BRUCE BERMAN BEN WAISBREN SCREENPLAY BY NIC PIZZOLATTO AND RICHARD WENK
MGM
VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES
Soundtrack on Sony Classical
PRODUCED BY ROGER BIRNBAUM TODD BLACK DIRECTED BY ANTOINE FUQUA
Magnificent7Movie.net
#Mag7
COLUMBIA PICTURES
A Sony Company
COMING SOON

CRUSH

EMILY RATAJKOWSKI

BEST known for her incredible body and *that* photo shoot where she got really nude, Emily Ratajkowski, (pronounced RAH-Tie-KOF-shkey) has got it all.

After beginning as a child actor, Ratajkowski first got noticed in Robin Thicke's *Blurred Lines* – that video which was probably a little/very sexist. After numerous acting and TV roles, namely *Gone Girl* and *Entourage*, she's now known the world over for her incredibly seductive photo shoots, featuring her amazing body in all its glory.

Sometimes it feels like Emily Ratajkowski came out of nowhere – a gift from the universe. One topless selfie with Kim Kardashian and she was propelled into the stratosphere.

But Ratajkowski is by no means just a pretty face with naked ambition. She's using her body image to raise bigger social issues.

The 25-year-old actor/model/international sex symbol is plenty articulate – an outspoken feminist set on reclaiming sexuality through her unapologetic beauty and nakedness, and we're with her all the way. After all, in her words, "Sex is normal, desire is normal, attention is normal, and that's ok".

Ratajkowski stands at the front of a cultural movement, one where women are choosing to take ownership of their sexuality and their bodies.

And that, along with the fact that she is an absolute glamour, is why she just has to be this month's *Penthouse* Crush.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES / DAVID LIVINGSTON

DOWNLOAD

10 WORLD RECORDS YOU CAN BREAK IN YOUR LUNCH HOUR

SOURCE: CHAIROFFICE.CO.UK

FASTEST TIME TO EAT A 12" PIZZA
Current record: 41.31 seconds
FASTEST TIME TO TYPE THE ALPHABET
Current record: 3.43 seconds
FASTEST TIME TO DUCT TAPE A PERSON TO A WALL
Current record: 41.66 seconds
MOST JAM DONUTS EATEN IN 3 MINUTES
Current record: SIX DONUTS
FASTEST TIME TO TYPE A MESSAGE BLINDFOLDED
Current record: 25.90 seconds
MOST PUSH-UPS WITH CLAPS IN 1 MINUTE
Current record: 90 PUSH UPS
LONGEST TIME TO SPIN A BASKET BALL ON 1 FINGER
Current record: 10 minutes, 33 seconds
MOST SMARTIES EATEN IN ONE MINUTE
Current record: 17 smarties
MOST GRAPES CAUGHT IN A MOUTH IN 3 MINUTES
Current record: 202 GRAPES
FASTEST TIME TO PRINT 500 SHEETS BY COLOUR DESKTOP PRINTER
Current record: 7 minutes, 19 seconds

PHONE APPS

WELL-DESIGNED PHONE APPS

These apps take the coveted title of "2016's most well-designed apps" according to Apple.

AUXY MUSIC CREATION

Become a musician in minutes; get your musical ideas down fast with this simple, minimalist app for creating electronic music on the go. It's simple on the surface, but with enough depth, if you need it.

STREAKS

It takes approximately 21 days to form a new habit, or break one. Streaks is the to-do list that helps you develop good habits to you achieve your goals. Track daily progress, create tasks, and get motivated.

CHAMELEON RUN

A "forever run game" with a twist. While dodging obstacles and landing jumps, you will also need to tweak your character's color to match the platform on which you're about to land. Visually stunning and addictive.

PODCASTS

1. NO SUCH THING AS A FISH

If you're a fan of the show Quite Interesting (QI), then you're going to love this. No Such Thing As A Fish is a weekly podcast where the QI researchers share their most interesting recent discoveries. Get your dose of trivia knowledge here.

2. PLANET MONEY

Imagine you could call up a friend and say, "Meet me at the bar and tell me what's going on with the economy." Now imagine that's actually a fun evening. Twice-weekly Planet Money is all things money, made interesting.

3. THE AXE FILES

David Axelrod, the founder and director of the University of Chicago Institute of Politics, brings you The Axe Files, a series of revealing interviews with key figures in the political world. Get to know some of the most interesting players in politics.

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HYPERKIN
MARTIN
MARTIN
COFFEE

TECH TOP 10

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VII

PHOTO: MEDIA CENTRE

PUTTING together a list of our favorite gadgetry is consistently one of the most enjoyable aspects of writing this magazine. We spend hours trawling the internet and making calls in search of the most exciting, and ridiculous things we can find. Needless to say, there is enough tech wizardry to fulfill even the most insatiable of appetites.

I / Vessyl is the smart cup that knows exactly what you're drinking. The cup, which resembles a thermos, holds a little more than 12 oz. of liquid, recognizes the nutritional content of any beverage you pour into it, tracks how much you're drinking, and charts your hydration level.

II / Nerf Rival Blasters are toy guns on steroids. They fire tiny, dimpled balls that pack a punch, putting the old dart designs to shame. The Zeus MXV-1200 motorized Blaster fires at a velocity up to 100 fps. It comes with an easy-load magazine and 12 high-impact rounds.

III / Bone Conduction Audio Shades
These sunglasses come with built-in bone conduction speakers and a noise-cancelling mic. That means, they'll transmit crystal-clear audio directly to your eardrums, while also maintaining situational awareness of your surroundings.

IV / Lenovo CPlus Bendable Phone
Forget curved iPhones! Bendable phones are here. Lenovo's new concept smartphone uses a flexible screen and segmented body to convert it from a phone to a watch band and back again. The C-Plus is not yet in production, but will run the Android operating system and come in 12 different colours.

V / We're all sick of hearing about it by now, but VR technology is finally here. **PlayStation VR** releases this October, is cheaper than competitors, and is usable by anyone with a PlayStation, we finally get to see what all the hype is about. While reviews have been mixed, the prospect of total immersion is utterly exciting and one we look forward to delving into in coming months.

VI / Adult **NASA Astronaut Suit** is the spacesuit for everyday wear you never knew you needed, until now. Not everyone gets to go to space, but that doesn't stop you from putting one of these on, closing your eyes and imagining you're floating. Not to mention, you'll be the envy of all your friends.

VII / The Pilot is an in-ear device that will translate foreign languages for you. Much like the Babel Fish from *Hitchiker's Guide to The Galaxy*, The Pilot is capable of translating between users speaking different languages and allows real-time translations in English, French, Italian, and Spanish.

VIII / Hyperkin's **Smart Boy** will turn any Android phone into a Gameboy and that is freaking awesome. What started as an April Fools joke has turned into so much more. Set to release in December, check the Hyperkin website for more details.

IX / Put down that coffee and wake up your brain with the electric jolt of **Thync**. This device works by stimulating your nerves electrically, allowing you to alter your mental state with an app. The wearable device, in essence, emulates the effects of certain drugs, without any of the drawbacks.

X / We know what you're thinking: *Finally*. Developed by Martin Aircraft, the $100,000 **Martin Jetpack** can provide flight for one person for up to 30 minutes at a time.

MUSIC

THE LIVING LEGENDS OF THE ROCK ERA

THE original hard living rock star is a rare and dying breed. Smuggling groupies onto private jets, trashing hotel rooms like Keith Moon, dead at 27 like Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Brian Jones or Jim Morrison. Their era created icons in a wild burst of manic energy. It's hard to keep living that life.

Assuming you're a first wave trailblazer of the 1960s and 70s, you're now aged into your own 60s and 70s. With the death of Lemmy Kilmister from *Motorhead* in December 2015, it feels like we lost the last true lunatic. Tastes change and most people slow down. Nevertheless, the following musicians have pretty well kept up what they do since way back.

KEITH RICHARDS

> KEITH RICHARDS

Of course, we start with Keith. The ultimate rocker. He's survived overdoses, infinite drinks, electrocution, the death of the '60s at Altamont, beds set on fire by cigarettes, and a German V-2 rocket landing on his abandoned cot during the London Blitz in 1942. The world needed the opening riff to "Satisfaction" and we were going to get it. As comedian Bill Hicks said, "They say 'Drugs are so bad.' Yeah, well how come Keith Richards still walks?"

A fall from a Fijian coconut tree almost took him in 2006, but he's still ramblin' along. The drugs are gone. Keep the cigarettes and whisky. *The Stones* are still touring. They don't need the money. All aged in their 70s. No way they'll stop until Mick's voice drops out.

> NEIL YOUNG

Renowned for his take no bullshit attitude. It goes all the way back to his very origins in music. In those early days, he walked like a badass from numerous prosperous bands that might have produced great income. No matter. He wrote *Harvest* at 26. Stardom was not the goal.

He's been back in the news after Republican presidential candidate and walking end of days Donald Trump used "Rockin' In the Free World" to celebrate his votes. It recalls Ronald Reagan using Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA" as a campaign song. Both completely missed the irony of the songs. Neither asked permission.

Young took issue with the implied endorsement that comes from Trump using his music. On the contrary, he says that he doesn't, "endorse hate, bigotry, childish name calling, the superficiality of celebrity or ignorance. Fuck you Donald Trump."

> BRIAN WILSON AND AL JARDINE (*THE BEACH BOYS*)

Keep bringing the world those Good Vibrations. These two original *Beach Boys* are still touring the world in their early 70s. Whether they need the money is totally up for grabs. Feels more like a dutiful performance of music they love. They've just gone around the globe yet again for the 50th anniversary of *Pet Sounds*, a top five record of all time.

Brian's unique life experience was detailed in *Love & Mercy*. A special case and genius talent. Some people can roll more easily with the profound onslaught of psychedelics and partying. Brian is more sensitive. For him, drugs and drinking took him straight off the planet. He remains the genuine article. Amazingly still capable of spinning pop tunes like "That's Why God Made The Radio".

> PAUL MCCARTNEY

See Paul actually died in 1966. Or so the legend goes. Always seemed super unlikely that those crafty *Beatles* could replace him with a perfect body double, conveniently boasting the supernatural songwriting gifts of the original Liverpool lad. But, you know, they totally hinted at it in their songs, yeah?

The thing about Paul is that he's *Paul McCartney*. A relentless self-promoting tour de force. A machine of gigs and hustle. He's definitely earned the rest, but instead, he's out at 2am getting turned away from Tyga's 2016 Grammys afterparty. As he said to the bouncers,

PHOTO: ISTOCK / THEO WARGO

PENTHOUSE RECORD PICKS

THE AVALANCHES
Wildflower (AUS)
Fans have been waiting 16 years for the follow-up to Since I Left You, and Australia's legendary oddball hip-hop instrumental outfit have finally returned. The lead single "Frankie Sinatra", featuring Danny Brown and MF Doom, drew confused and mixed reactions, but Wildflower will surprise and compel with intricate samples and a star-studded cast of contributing MCs and vocalists, such as Toro Y Moi.

CLAMS CASINO
32 Levels (USA)
A humble forerunner of "cloud rap", Michael Volpe, is dropping his first studio-produced album in July. In March 2011, his Instrumentals mixtape gained explosive Internet fame so fast it was too late to change his jokey stand-in Clams Casino moniker. Far from home-producing beats, Volpe is now collaborating with a deep roster of prominent artists, including Lil B, A$AP Rocky, Vince Staples, Mikky Ekko, Joe Newman from Alt-J and Samuel T. Herring from Future Islands.

BLOOD ORANGE
Freetown Sound (USA)
Dev Hynes is set to release his first record since the seismic Cupid Deluxe from 2013. The British musician formerly known as Lightspeed Champion is one of the coolest collaborators in pop, funk and off-kilter r n' b, having worked with killers including Sky Ferreira and FKA Twigs. Freetown Sound is about his life and upbringing, being black in England and America, and named for Freetown where his father was born in Sierra Leone.

PHOTO: ISTOCK / JOHN SCIULLI

FILM

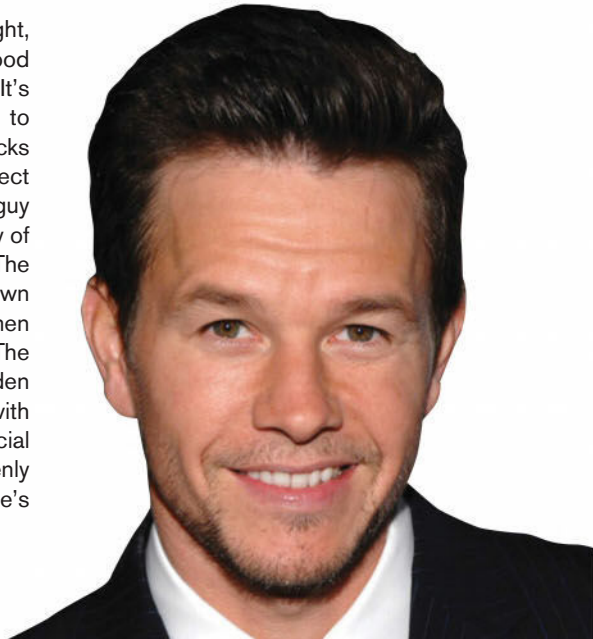
RIGHT ON THE MARK

SINCE he was a teen MTV star and underwear model, Mark Wahlberg has led an extraordinary pop culture career. When Roger Ebert said that his favourite actor was noir legend Robert Mitchum, he actually meant Mark Wahlberg. His repertoire is one of the most dynamic of any actor to be to found in Hollywood, crossing into almost every genre imaginable. The breakthrough for Wahlberg's film career came with the release of *Boogie Nights*, where he honed his skills in offbeat drama – playing Dirk Diggler, the confused, existentially lost pornstar. Since then, he's nailed blockbuster action roles in movies like the remake of *The Italian Job* and *Shooter*. He's no stranger to comedy, teaming up with Will Ferrell in Adam McKay's unforgettable goofball buddy-cop piece *The Other Guys*. What's more, his appearance in *I Heart Huckabees* – one of the most eccentric, leftfield satires to ever come out of Hollywood – as a firefighter/philosopher was a weird direction for any actor to take their career. In other words, Wahlberg isn't afraid to take risks and experiment with his art.

ALTHOUGH WAHLBERG MAY HAVE A BRIGHT, BOOMING PRESENCE AS A HOLLYWOOD ACTOR, HIS PAST IS LESS THAN A FAIRYTALE.

Although Wahlberg may have a bright, booming presence as a Hollywood actor, his past is less than a fairytale. It's obvious enough simply by listening to him; Wahlberg grew up in the roughnecks of Boston. What you might not expect is that despite his charismatic, nice guy public persona, the actor has a history of hate crimes and gang membership. The most notorious transgression he's known for is beating up two Vietnamese men on the same day when he was 16. The first person he attacked with a wooden stick, the second he simply took to with his fists while supposedly yelling racial slurs. Since then, Wahlberg has openly regretted his actions stating that he's "paid for his mistakes" and recanting from the gangs he was involved in apparently wasn't a pretty situation, leading to some intense fights. Moreover, not surprisingly, he has also pursued a pardon for his crimes (so far ongoing), and the latter of his victims has supported the move saying "He should not have the crime hanging over him any longer." Nothing can possibly redeem the grave wrongdoings and delinquency for which Wahlberg is responsible, and it would be absurd to pretend that anything can. But if there's at least still something obliquely inspiring here, it's the fact that he's managed to bounce back into such an illustrious, talented career, despite such a morbid past filled with mistakes and regrets.

Now that *Wahlburgers* has concluded its fifth season this year, what does he have in store for us next? No less than another curveball in a versatile catalogue. This time, he's venturing into political territory, with *Darkwater Horizon* set to hit the cinemas on 30 September. The film explores the gigantic oil spill after the explosion on the BP-operated oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico, which resulted in the deaths of eleven people and experts describe as the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history. At any rate, it doesn't even matter whether his movies are any good or not; Wahlberg always brings something impressive and sympathetic to his performances that puts most of his contemporaries to shame. So, it's about time we forgot about Leo's Oscar, when will Marky Mark finally win the best actor?



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505 GAMES

GAMING

SHOOTING STAR: GEARS OF WAR 4

Microsoft (Xbox One, PC)

GEARS of War: The Next Generation might be a better name for this kickoff installment of a new trilogy in the shooter series that made chainsaw bayonets a thing. You're dropped into the titanium-toed platform boots of J. D. Fenix, son of the road-running meathead hero of the previous trilogy. A chip off his old blockhead of a dad, Fenix is a rebellious mercenary living outside the walled outposts of planet Sera, 25 years after the human race narrowly wiped out their would-be exterminators in *Gears of War 3*. Fenix and his crew start out tussling with the robot enforcers of Sera's authoritarian government, but these chipper androids are skeet targets compared to the game's real threat: a menace known as the Swarm. When the Swarm begins kidnapping entire human colonies and transforming them into zombie drones, it's up to Fenix and Co. to save Sera.

But aside from some enhanced weaponry, including a cannon that lobs mines over walls, *Gears of War 4* is an exercise in series déjà vu – and that's a good thing. Players once again take a stop-and-pop approach to each level, diving for cover behind destructible walls before returning fire and dashing ahead. Freakish storms add fog-of-war confusion to the firefights, but true *Gears*heads will feel at home wielding familiar weapons that are both gory and goofy, including a combat knife for up-close work and the classic chainsaw bayonet that's as satisfying to wield as ever (unlike the laughably useless weapons profiled below).

But the long-haul draw for *Gears 4* is its nearly limitless suite of multiplayer modes, including a cooperative campaign and a revamped Horde game of survival that rewards kills with currency you can spend on fortifications. When Fenix's dad, Marcus, finally shows up for some father-son Swarm-blasting bonding time, you'll feel like the *Gears* series has come full circle.

FIRE AND FORGET: GAMING'S FOUR LEAST-LETHAL FIREARMS

> 4 < BRASS KNUCKLES

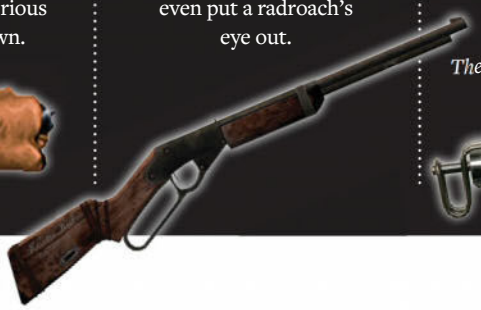
Doom (PC)

This progenitor of all first-person shooters laid out a simple rule: When your ammo runs dry, put up your dukes. But *Doom*'s brass-knuckled left cross only pissed off enemies and opened players to a serious retaliatory beat-down.

> 3 < BB RIFLE

Fallout: New Vegas (PS3, Xbox 360, PC)

Between its nuked-out mutants and armoured marauders, the apocalyptic wasteland of the *Fallout* games is no place for a pea shooter. This kid's toy can't even put a radroach's eye out.



> 2 < KLOBB SUBMACHINE GUN

GoldenEye 007 (N64)

This wildly inaccurate pray-and-sprayer might tickle enemies to death (as long as they obligingly stand in one place). The Klobb might be the most useless gadget in any James Bond adventure—and that includes the fake third nipple from *The Man with the Golden Gun*.

> 1 < THE NEEDLER

Halo (Xbox, PC)

Like some sort of alien Silly String from an intergalactic Spencer Gifts, this purple pistol shot skinny shards that fizzled before they reached the enemy. It's the sort of weapon no self-respecting space marine would wield unless he was hosting a kid's birthday party.

IMAGES: GAMESPRESS

BUSTED

NIGERIAN SCAM PRINCE

INTERPOL and the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crime Commission have busted a Nigerian email scam "King Pin" after he defrauded millions from around the world.

The 40-year-old man, known as "Mike", headed up a cyber crime team of more than 40 individuals from Africa and Asia, who together, lightened the pockets of their victims by more than $60 million U.S.

Before you start getting on your high horse and ranting to your mate about how these fools can't even recognise the oldest trick in the book – this wasn't your typical "Nigerian prince needs your help" con.

Mike and his team mostly relied on what's known as business email compromise (BEC) scams, specifically, Payment diversion fraud and CEO fraud.

Payment diversion fraud works by compromising a business supplier email account, contacting buyers and diverting funds into an account controlled by the scammer.

CEO fraud, works similarly, through hacking the email account of a company CEO, contacting the relevant employee and requesting that they transfer money into the pockets of the scammers.

Besides these, relatively sophisticated, international business scams, "Mike" was also known for his "romance scams". The Interpol report didn't elaborate on the particulars of this, but if you have fallen in love with any dashing, too-good-to-be-true Nigerian Princes lately, you might want to reconsider wiring them your life's savings.

The head of the EFCC in Nigeria, Abdul Chukkol, said that the transnational nature of business e-mail scams makes it difficult to crack, but the arrest sent a clear signal that Nigeria could not be considered a safe haven for criminals.

The Nigerian Prince Email con, which is by far our favourite email scam, has been doing the rounds since the very beginnings of the internet. Most of you have undoubtedly seen the basic "give me some money, and I'll share my fortune" email usually from a "representative" of the supposed prince.

But have you seen the intergalactic version of this very same scam? An email circulating at the moment takes the classic con to the stars. The author

BESIDES THESE, RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCAMS, "MIKE" WAS ALSO KNOWN FOR HIS "ROMANCE SCAMS"

"Mike", and one of his colleagues also arrested by Interpol, faces charges including hacking, conspiracy and obtaining money under false pretences. Both are currently on administrative bail as the investigation continues. This means that, so far, the authorities don't have enough evidence to charge the pair formally. If you receive any emails from a "Mike" who's looking to split his loot with you as long as you can get him out of Nigeria, then there may be some truth to it. We still wouldn't be handing out our credit cards, though.

of the message claims to be the cousin of a stranded Nigerian Astronaut. The Russians apparently brought him up and marooned the poor guy in Salyut 8T, a secret military space station over ten years ago after the Soviet Union collapsed. Despite this, the email assures us, that the Afronaut is, "in good humour". The "give me your money" bit of the scam goes as far as asking for $3 million U.S., which we think might be a bit of a stretch for most, but hey – shoot for the moon, then at least when you miss, you end up among the stars, right?

POLITICS

COINCIDENCE? WE THINK SO

SOMETIMES in politics, a coincidence is just a coincidence. In June 2015, hundreds of thousands of Australians tuned in to watch the season finale of HBO's mega-hit series, *Game of Thrones*. That same week – by a strange twist of fate – a bill designed to stop them downloading copyright material from the internet was introduced into the Senate.

Torrenting, a method of sharing files between computers that allows millions of people to download them for free, has become nothing short of a national passion in Australia. When *Game of Thrones* premiered its fifth season, Australia topped the international list for illegal downloads.

As far as production companies are concerned, this represents a festering injustice, depriving cash that could be used to pay starving artists and creatives – as well as pad out corporate bonuses, fill offshore bank accounts and replenish campaign funds for the re-election of politicians.

Which brings us to the fact that not all coincidences in politics are just coincidence.

After failing to compel Internet Service Providers (ISPs) – the companies who provide your connection, like Telstra, Optus, or TPG – to crackdown on torrenting in a lawsuit that went all the way to the Australian High Court, the push against the practice turned to a more reliable source.

In 2013-14, film production and distribution company Village Roadshow gave over half a million dollars to the two major parties, a significant increase on its generosity from the previous year.

This sudden kind-heartedness was followed by the passage of the 2015 laws. The Greens raged, a few younger Labor MPs grumbled, and the show rolled on.

Instead of targeting the actual people huddled under their doonas, fervently sorting through Pirate Bay links – difficult to do, bad for PR – the new legislation went straight for the source, allowing companies to take websites to court and have them blocked if their "primary purpose" is to infringe copyright.

WHEN *GAME OF THRONES* PREMIERED ITS FIFTH SEASON, AUSTRALIA TOPPED THE INTERNATIONAL LIST FOR ILLEGAL DOWNLOADS

Despite the caveat that only overseas sites could be blocked, opponents were furious and argued the laws would do little to stop torrenting rates while effectively introducing an Internet filter. This, they said, was the thin end of censorship.

Armed with the new laws, three cases are now working their way through the courts, courtesy of Universal Music, Foxtel and our old friends Roadshow Films, trying to knock out a host of prominent torrenting sites.

Popular sites Pirate Bay and KickassTorrent have both been named, though neither have representatives in court. Roadshow et al don't actually have to notify the website owners of the lawsuits or give them a chance to respond, they just have to try to notify them.

That means the lawsuits aren't being fought so much as negotiated. The ISPs, some of whom have previously stood up to the entertainment companies, are squabbling over how exactly they will be blocked and who will pay, but the outcome itself appears a fait accompli. The Pirate Bay is going down.

Watching this process play out has clearly validated the concern that overseas websites won't have the funds or the inclination to appear in an Australian court, meaning they will essentially be sunk without their case ever being made.

Even if you think pirating movies is wrong, this puts forward some uncomfortable questions. What happens when a big company sues to take down a website that arguably doesn't exist "primarily" to infringe copyright? Just imagine how many sites fall into that category.

For example, the documents that WikiLeaks uploads infringe copyright – could it survive a challenge under the test?

It's questions like this that have led to the accusation that the new laws were crafted in a way that favours the big copyright holders, the people who poured money into the pockets of the major parties, at the expensive of civil liberties, including the freedom from censorship.

Then again, maybe it's all just a coincidence.

Whether the potentially revolutionary idea currently represents a sound financial investment or not is another question entirely.

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LATE NIGHT, CITY LIGHTS

Photography: Tom Fraud Model : Liza

Tom Fraud is the pseudonym created by Nicholas Hardy, internationally based art director and photographer. *Late Night, City Lights* features Liza in a sheer glass high rise above the sprawling metropolis of Kuala Lumpur. The glow of neon lights on her perfect body set against the bustling urban backdrop is the perfect combination of stunning design and incredible beauty. Fraud is a master at work behind the lens, with flawless use of texture and lighting he brings this late night in the city to life.

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MAN OF MANY TALENTS

ETHAN HAWKE IS AN ACTOR, A NOVELIST, A SCREENWRITER, AND A DIRECTOR. THE MAN IS LIVING PROOF THAT YOU CAN BE A JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES AND STILL BE A MASTER OF MANY.

ETHAN Hawke has never made it easy on himself. He has long endured glorious existential struggles in his pursuit of authenticity, it's not enough for him to be good at what he does – he needs to feel that his work has the kind of integrity that adds definition and context to his world.

As soon as Hawke greets you, there's an unmistakable sense of his artistic passion mingled with a general air of anxiety and restlessness. Hawke smiles easily and nervously and speaks with a rare candour and enthusiasm. He's doubly proud of his two new films – *Born To Be Blue*, a portrait of legendary jazz trumpeter Chet Baker

– and *The Magnificent Seven*, the remake of the 1960 John Sturges classic based on Akira Kurosawa's 1954 epic, *Seven Samurai.*

"Mag 7" follows seven gunslingers who come together to defend a small town against savage thieves reteams Hawke with his Training Day director Antoine Fuqua and co-star Denzel Washington alongside Chris Pratt and Vincent D'Onofrio. Washington plays a John Wayne-style western hero while Hawke is cast as a former rebel soldier. These two films, the former a low-budget indie, the latter a big-budget blockbuster, are typical of Hawke's longstanding desire to work both sides of the Hollywood fence.

"I've always tried to find the best roles," Hawke says. "The size of the movie is only important when it comes to how much money you think you need to make at certain points in your life and giving you enough

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES / GRANT LAMOS IV

ANTI-CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Hawke with Julie Delpy in Before Sunrise (1995), where the collaboration with director Richard Linklater all started, With Lorelei Linklater, and Ellar Coltrane in Boyhood (2014); and as Goodnight Robicheaux in the upcoming remake of the magnificent seven from Director Antoine Fuqua

1995

2004

2013

BEFORE SUNRISE: © 1995 CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT. BOYHOOD: © 2014 IFC FILMS. THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN: © 2016 SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

leverage to keep making more films. *The Magnificent Seven* is by far the biggest budget Hollywood movie I've ever done and also one of the best. I loved getting back on a set with Denzel (Washington) and Antoine (Fuqua) who puts his own stamp on the story as opposed to just doing a straight remake. I'm incredibly proud of this film."

And over the course of 40-plus films, Hawke can lay claim to four Oscar nominations including that for last year's *Boyhood*. In addition, he's published two novels, directed several films, and co-authored the screenplays for the Richard Linklater trilogy, (*Before Sunrise*, -*Sunset* and -*Midnight*) trilogy that has become the object of cult worship amongst cinephiles.

The 45-year-old Ethan Hawke lives in New York with his second wife Ryan and their two daughters, Clementine, 8, and Indiana, 5. He also has two older children, Maya, 18, and Levon, 14, from his previous marriage to actress Uma Thurman. Recently, Hawke appeared in *Maggie's Plan*, a romantic comedy co-starring Greta Gerwig and Julianne Moore.

Q: Ethan, you're best known for your acting career, but you're also a writer who's published two novels *(The Hottest State and Ash Wednesday)* and director *(Chelsea Walls)*?

Yeah, my agents are always telling me to stay a little more focused. But there's a great Shaker (American) expression: "If you improve in one talent, God will give you more." And then there's that Zen expression which essentially says: "To master one profession, you have to apprentice three."

I always felt it would be beneficial to my life as an actor to explore directing and writing and other things. If you isolate yourself and don't let yourself be pretty much a human being, then you stagnate your own growth, particularly if you had started acting at 13 like I did.

Your career has enjoyed some ups and downs but things seem to be better than ever now for you. How do you feel about everything today?

The best thing is the kind of beautiful life I have with my wife and our children. I've become a better man and a better father over time and I'm so grateful for the kind of support and understanding my wife gives me and how good we feel about our life together.

I don't know if one really ties in to the other, but I also feel that I'm doing some of the best work of my career and I'm very happy with the films I've been making the last few years. It's been very encouraging and gratifying and in some ways it's restored my faith in acting and what I always set out to do in this business.

Have you changed your approach to acting and the business over the years?

When I was younger, it was all about getting the role and then finding the next one. Now the pleasure I get from my work is finding the right project and then committing to it. I feel happiest during the process of making the film and when the shooting is over, I always feel a bit sad.

You've done many significant films but your trilogy of films with Richard Linklater as well as last year's *Boyhood* has been a kind of defining point in your career.

"IF YOU ISOLATE YOURSELF AND DON'T LET YOURSELF BE PRETTY MUCH A HUMAN BEING, THEN YOU STAGNATE YOUR OWN GROWTH, PARTICULARLY IF YOU HAD STARTED ACTING AT 13 LIKE I DID"

I am particularly grateful to Richard Linklater for having given me this long continuing story that has left such a deep impression on audiences as well as on me. Those three films, *Before Sunrise, Before Sunset, Before Midnight,* which began in 1995, have been milestones in my life. When I look back at those films, I think of my marriages, separations, periods of despair, and a long process of figuring things out in my life.

This year, audiences will see you in two very different films – *Born to be Blue* and *The Magnificent Seven.* Do you feel the need to keep your hand in both the indie and mainstream Hollywood studio universe?

I've always been allergic to American projects that are obsessed with money

as being the be-all and end-all of what constitutes a successful human being. I'm more interested in projects that have less to do with glamourizing and more to do with honest behaviour.

Magnificent Seven is something that we've been talking about doing for a long time. I remember going to the premiere of *The Equalizer* (starring Denzel Washington and directed by Antoine Fuqua - ED) and that's when they told me they were going to do the remake. They wanted to know if I would be interested in joining them and I told them that I definitely wanted in!

Was there a special feeling to being part of this classic story?

I remember being out in the desert riding horses with Denzel and this beautiful feeling came over me about working on an epic Hollywood western in the style of John Ford. It was awesome!

I've always loved the westerns and I thought that Antoine had a great take on the genre about bringing together all these very different badass types. I thought it was so amazing to see Denzel playing a John Wayne kind of figure as an African-American who comes from the North. We also have a legendary Korean actor Byung-Hun Lee who plays James Coburn's part and Vincent D'Onofrio, a crazy Italian character, and a Mexican actor, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, and me as a former Confederate soldier.

Your other film, *Born to Be Blue,* sees you play the legendary Jazz trumpeter Chet Baker. What was that experience like for you?

It was a dream for me to be able to play Chet Baker...I've been doing this for a long time, and so when you're well cast for something, it makes it easier to do a good job, because you so enjoy the role.

I love music so much. I loved Chet Baker. I loved learning the trumpet. I loved learning about whatever made him tick.

He was a very troubled kind of musical genius, wasn't he?

I feel like I've spent much of my life around people like that who suffered from addiction. That's a world that has fascinated me pretty much my whole life. To understand that kind of addiction, you have to understand to an extent the jazz culture of that time when after the (Second World) War there were so many drugs on the street.

The reality is that a lot of people who were serious about music were doing drugs and felt strongly that it was fun to play on them because they could keep their focus, yet lose themselves. A lot of Chet's heroes - Charlie Parker, Billie Holiday, Miles Davis - were known users. (Drugs) were almost like a badge of honour.

Playing Chet Baker in Born to Be Blue (2015)

"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALLERGIC TO AMERICAN PROJECTS THAT ARE OBSESSED WITH MONEY AS BEING THE BE-ALL AND END-ALL OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A SUCCESSFUL HUMAN BEING"

If you're going to make a movie about a jazz musician, it should have that air, that mood, that timbre, that feeling you have when you're lying down and listening to a couple of Chet Baker records.

You're the father of four children. Do you ever talk to them about drugs?

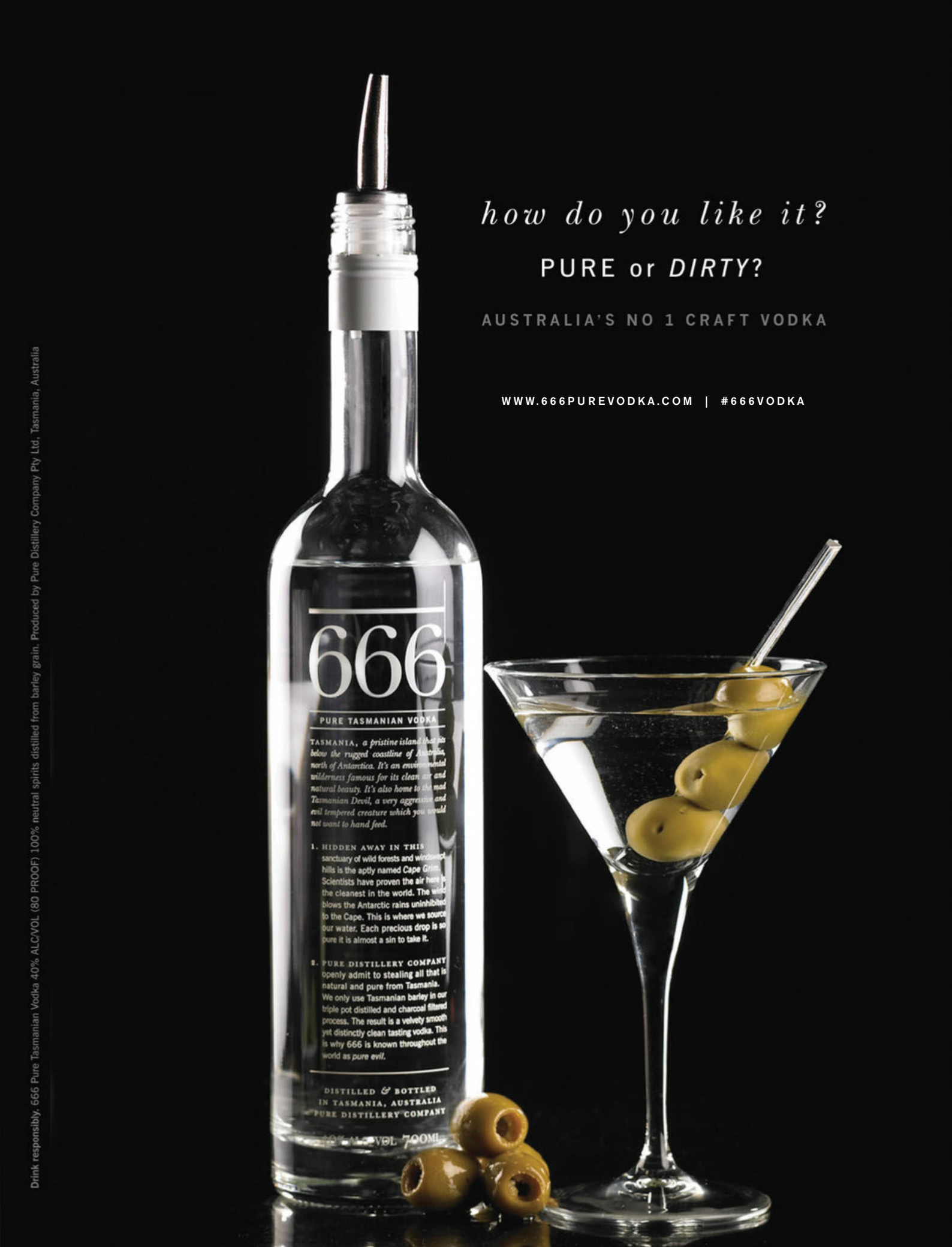
A father can keep telling his kids how insidious and dangerous drugs are, but the only thing that matters is the example you set. There is nothing that kids find more irritating than when older people like me tell them what to do or what not to do. I try to show my children how to be happy and I hope that influences their choices and behaviour in the best possible way.

Do you give your children any specific kind of advice?

I'm often talking to them about how they should try to engage in life, to do things even if it's hard or something you might not feel you have a gift for. I always remember when as a boy I left with a group of friends for a coast to coast trip across America.

I thought: "It's going to be great when we get to San Francisco." Then you get there and you start thinking that the Grand Canyon is the place you really need to see, then Texas. But when you get home you realize that the fun has always been in taking the journey and it's the journey itself which is the most important thing.

BORN TO BE BLUE: © NEW REAL FILMS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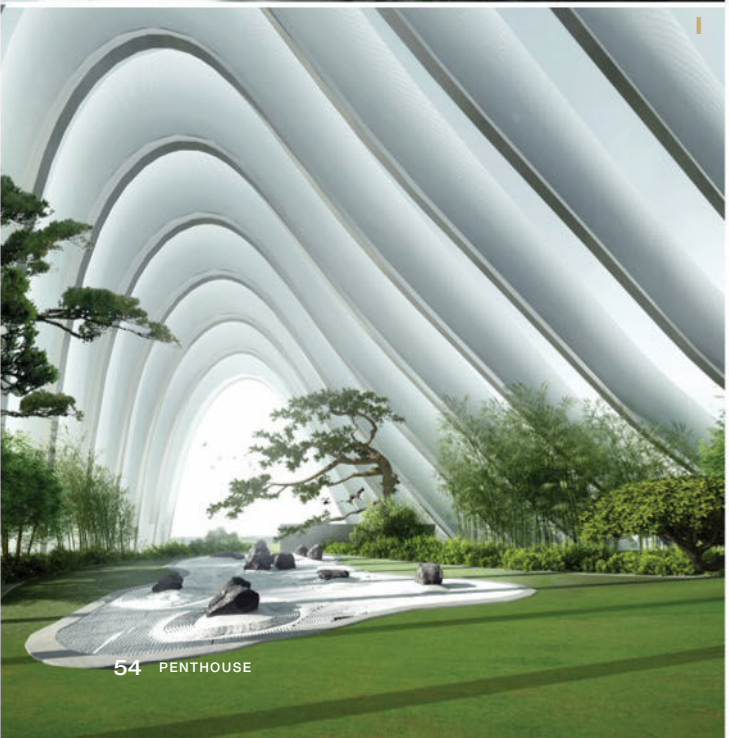
OUR URBAN FUTURE IS LOOKING A LOT CLEANER, GREENER, AND LEANER THAN WE COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED. HERE ARE THE BIGGEST TRENDS FROM SOME OF THE HOTTEST ARCHITECTS.

BY STEVE FREETH

I

II



I

II

ARCHITECTURE

BUILDING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

IN just over a decade, 60 percent of the population will live in cities, and a lot more of us will call megacities of over 10 million people home. Tokyo and Shanghai are already nudging 40 million so it's no wonder the pressure is on to make room for everyone and do it in style.

Thankfully architects are rising to the challenge, helping to reshape our cities with towers that are taller, smarter, greener and yes, weirder, than anything we've ever seen before. They're tapping new materials, next-generation engineering, advanced design software and digital technologies to re-imagine just how we'll live in the near future.

Films like *Bladerunner* or *Hunger Games* may have put their money on a bleak vision of decaying, dysfunctional cities, but the new architecture suggests our urban future is looking a lot cleaner, greener and leaner than we could ever have imagined.

ODA Architecture's pencil-thin, ultra-tall skyscraper in New York (**II**) is next-generation city living, now rising in spots previously too small for towers. ODA's is not the first super skinny highrise reshaping Manhattan's skyline, but it's the slimmest so far while still delivering expansive apartments and garden terraces in the clouds.

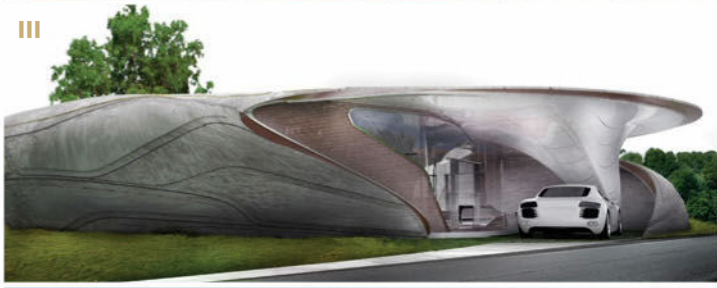
MAD Architects got its start in China but went global with shape-shifting designs that continue to re-imagine what buildings can be. Chaoyang Park Plaza in the heart of Beijing (**I**) is typical of the firm's sinuous, asymmetrical approach, creating a futuristic city, blending otherworldly architecture with natural and artificial landscapes.

Ateliers Jean Nouvel gave Sydney its most striking apartment complex, One Central Park, with a stunning garden draped design. His Rosewood Sao Paulo Tower, in partnership with Groupe Allard, takes green building to the next step as the 100-metre apartment/hotel complex rises skyward from the heritage site on terraced levels packed with gardens and trees.

The **Bjarke Ingels Group**, or BIG, hails from Denmark but their New York Spiral Tower (**IV**) ticks all the global design trends. Wrapped in a seamless pathway of green terraces, the Spiral reinvents the contemporary and sustainable office tower through new ways to meet, work and move through the whole building.

WATG's award-winning design for the world's first freeform 3d printed house (**III**) brings the future home. Called *Curve Appeal* the spacey home welds the printed panels together to create a curvaceous, arching "self-supporting cellular matrix" that reinvents how we design, build and live in skyscrapers.

III


III

IV

IV

PHOTOS: PR IMAGES

ON TWO WHEELS

FOR some people, motorcycles can seem like the luxury car's poor cousin with fewer headlines, far lower prices, and less interest from designers or tech companies. But you'd be wrong, given they are now estimated to be a $2B global market, growing by nearly 8% a year with more players coming to the table all the time.

And like high-end cars, they're also seeing a lot of innovation as they try to stay relevant in the major cities, for millennials and women, or to gearheads who now expect speed plus smarts. The rush to make market and race 'superbikes' backed by turbocharger technology is one outcome of that, but so is the sheer range of bikes now coming on to the market.

Electric motorcycles and embedded IQ in controls, screens, audio, engines or helmets are all this year's hottest bike trends. But in the "gramming" age, so is attention grabbing design either as futuristic as possible or back to basics by embracing unique, customised or hand-built aesthetics. We take a spin around the latest trends on 2016's best-looking bikes.

PHOTOS:PR IMAGES

SKULLY AR-1

Futuristic helmets are all the rage, but SKULLY's AR-1 smart helmet is a standout for both looks and hands-free IQ. Launched by one of the most successful Indiegogo crowdfunding campaigns ever, the AR-1's integrated heads up display blends Augmented Reality, voice recognition, GPS and a rear-facing camera to deliver the ride of your life.

XDIAVEL S

It's not hard to see why legendary Italian bike company Ducati just won a Red Dot global design award for their dramatic cruiser, the XDiavel S. The "long, low-slung, muscular" bike puts as much style into each component as it does blending Ducati's high-performance DNA with the demands of long range riding.

KTM 390 RC

The trend toward versatile, bare bones, big performance bikes is summed up by KTM's 390 RC. This sexy, extremely sporty bike is lightweight, agile, fast and suitable for urban, country or flat out racing, with its steel trellis frame, state-of-the-art, liquid cooled, single cylinder, four-stroke 375ccm engine. Looks great too.

ON TWO WHEELS

ZEUS TWELVE THORIUM

Gray Design's limited edition Zeus Twelve Thorium, billed as the world's first luxury motorcycle, is sculpture in motion. Long, emphatic and sleek with dazzling white, gold and silver accents, the Thorium's state of the art electric drive gives a top speed of 164kph and sweetens the deal with embedded Bang & Olufsen sound.

HARLEY DAVIDSON LIVEWIRE

Iconic manufacturer Harley Davidson's first electric bike, Project LiveWire, has all the iconic styling but adds the latest technology to deliver "exhilarating acceleration" and a re-imagined "look, sound, and feel". Just as pioneering, Harley Davidson is still refining the bike through crowdsourced feedback via its global Project LiveWire Experience Tour.

AIRBUS LIGHTRIDER

Aeroplane giant Airbus's revolutionary LightRider is the world's first 3D printed motorcycle. Over 30% lighter than anything else around, the tubular frame made up of millions of aluminium alloy particles, houses an electric motor that powers the bike from 0 - 80 kph in just seconds.

INSIGHT

TOP TIPS FOR START-UPS

GREEN lasers are cool, especially when they turn your smartphone into a highly accurate and affordable 3D scanner.

We chatted with Richard Boers from Aussie start-up Eora 3D about their latest product that's taking the world by storm. The high-precision 3D scanner powered by your smartphone has revolutionised 3D scanning. Even better, it sells for a fraction of the price. The $199 laser scanner is driven by any model iPhone 5 or 6.

We asked Rich what he thinks it takes to launch a successful start-up.

Show us what you've got

Show your product. We showed Eora 3D for ten months publicly before we went to kick-starter. People are worried that their idea might get stolen or copied. While it's possible, it's very unlikely someone will believe in it as much as you do.

Don't be afraid to show it off. Show it to the people who are going to purchase it and get their feedback. Also, get a solid mailing list and let your buyers know about it.

Jump in with both feet

Choose something that you're passionate about but don't be too picky. But if you find something or a golden ticket – throw yourself at it. We founded Eora 3D based on something that wasn't accessible to consumers. The nearest scanner we compete with is about $4000. We hit out funding goal in about 3 hours, or just under.

Pay attention to detail

Obsess over details, learn who your target audience is and don't be afraid to show off your product.

Stay organised with Apps

Rich's picks: Mail, Calendar, 1 Password

A lot of start-ups fail because…

They're only solving a problem they have as opposed to a collective problem. Other than that, it could be timing and luck. There is a lot of luck involved and timing is key!

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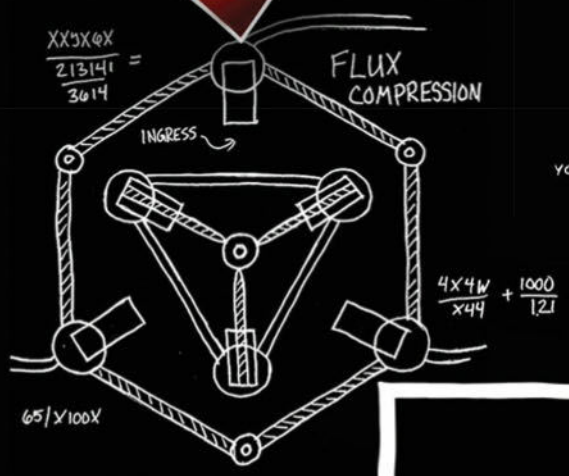
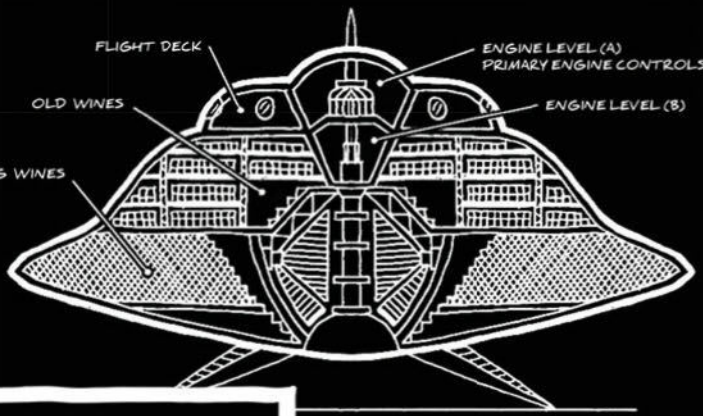




$$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu\,\varepsilon}}$$ (SPEED OF LIGHT)

$\mu_0 = 4\pi.10^{-7}$ [H/m]

$\varepsilon_0 = 8.854.10^{-12}$ [F/m]

$c_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \varepsilon_0}} = 299{,}795{,}638$ [m/s]

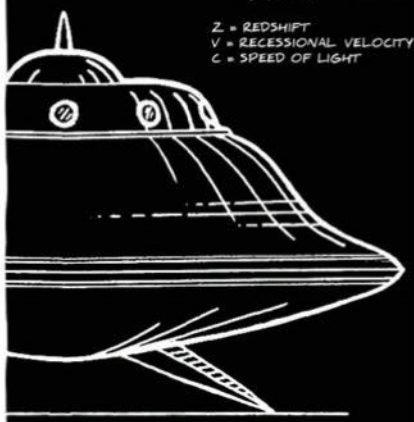
$$m = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)}}$$

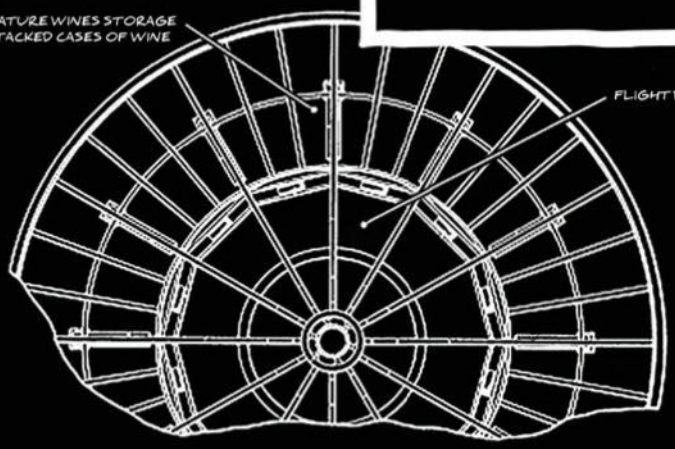
(FASTER THAN LIGHT RELATIVITY)

(RELATIVISTIC REDSHIFT) $$z = \sqrt{\frac{c+v}{c-v}} - 1$$

z = REDSHIFT
v = RECESSIONAL VELOCITY
c = SPEED OF LIGHT

MARS NEEDS





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WATERCRAFTS

STYLE AT SEA

NO one may quite agree on just how to parse the differences between a superyacht, megayacht or even the emerging gigayacht, but everyone's pretty sure it's a booming market. Estimates suggest there were around 4,500 30 metre or longer superyachts in the world at the end of last year and with another 700 or so on order, and with some of the best going for billions.

The people who own one are the so-called Ultra High Net Worth Individuals – with $30M or more banked and an average $10M-plus boat, and that's just for starters, of course. For a long time, bigger was just a hell of a lot better, but yachts are changing to better handle adventure, add luxurious fit outs and make room for lots of toys to play with once you finally drop anchor.

Which is probably why there's just as much happening with smaller watercraft too, as motor yachts, speedboats, sports yachts or whatever-the-fuck you'd like to call them get reinvented and mashed up with more power, good looks and IQ. We take a look at the year's finest.

1 / Superyachts are going from ambling to adventurous, and that's where the striking SeaHawk, ice-breaking yachts come in handy. 338-feet long, six polar class hull for cracking 2.5 feet of ice, room for three months of food and 12,000 nautical mile range, the SeaHawk is also gorgeously designed inside and out.

2 / Bugatti did boats in the 1930s before ultra luxury cars, and now they've teamed with yacht builder, Palmer Johnson, to create Niniette, an open carbon-fibre 'sport yacht' that comes in three models starting at $2 million. The styling, colour scheme and rich touches such as the titanium and exotic wood highlights are all classic Bugatti, though.

3 / Silver Arrows Marine's 14 metre ARROW460-Granturismo springs from a 4-year design partnership with Mercedes-Benz – and it shows. The sculptural Granturismo re-imagines the luxury "motor yacht" by blending outdoor / indoor living with smart glass, retractable stern terrace, built-in sun deck and double-console cockpit. All fitted out with Yanmar diesel engines, for that quick getaway.

4 / Cigarette Racing's tag "why own a boat when you can own a legend?" sums up the $1 million-plus 50-foot Marauder SS "powerboat. Blending over the top racing performance with impeccably sleek looks, it's claimed as the most powerful production twin-engine performance boat on the market, with 3,100 of horsepower that can push this craft to an estimated 135 mph.

5 / Vanquish Yachts just launched the stunning VQ 48 motorboat that takes the company's reputation for great looks, agility, speed and luxury to the next level. Built by hand, the VQ 48's distinctive hull design, high-tech engineering, ultramodern dashboard and tailored high-end audio systems is the next generation in boating.

1

3

4

2

5

HERO
12
NATURAL
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For every HERO Condom sold, one is donated to a developing country to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and save lives.
HERO
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ULTRA THIN
CONDOMS
Vegan friendly
ONE FOR ONE
For every HERO Condom sold, one is donated to a developing country to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and save lives.

INFO

DESIGNER SEX

THEY say good things come in small packages, but until recently, we haven't been able to prove it. Thanks to a recent survey of 1000 Australian women, we may finally have some answers.

Women reveal that when purchasing products, a good looking package is key to what they want… Wait, what?

According to a new survey, we know when it comes to condoms women want something that looks premium and that won't make them feel embarrassed when presenting it at the check-out. There goes your typical provocative condom packaging.

That's where Australian company, HERO Condoms are doing things differently. As opposed to the typical "backroom at a nightclub meets cheap deodorant" packaging, HERO has opted for a sleek and clean approach. It feels premium and it's definitely different from what we've seen on the market.

They are also the only socially responsible condom; whereby for every condom sold, one is donated to a developing country to help fight the spread of HIV/AIDS.

So why does this matter? Considering that women make up over half the market, it's certainly worth noting. So, how do the numbers add up?

HERO conducted multiple surveys to ask women what they want in a condom brand:

- 77.9% of women said they would choose HERO over a competitor brand given the social nature of the product.
- 41% of purchasers in the condom category are women.
- HERO's old packaging was not as "premium" as it could be.

HERO was told to keep their packaging simplistic, clean and premium - and they listened!

So, you've done everything right so far; you've been funny and charming, why not go the extra 10% and really impress her with your socially conscious condoms as well. That's called a full package.

INFO

WORLD WIDE WEEKEND

ONCE upon a time, before anyone even knew what a weekend was, the English aristocracy used to call the end of the working week just plain old Saturday to Monday. We ultimately added "Thank God It's Friday" and opened up a whole world of possibilities that we think it's time to revisit all over again.

Got a spare million lying around? Never mind, just apply for an Amex Centurion credit card with its minimum yearly spend of $250,000 and 24-hour concierge to help you do it. Then slap down around $20,000 for your very own Solarin, the world's latest, coolest and most expensive smartphone, download some travel apps and get a move on.

Before you embark on some of the most "luxperience" weekend escapades you'll need the right kit. We suggest calling an exclusive personal buyer like VIP Luxury Service in London, and let them take you shopping. Must haves include a lounge suit by Canali, a tux by Tom Ford, hand made shoes by John Lobb, an alligator leather travel bag by Domenico Vacca, and sunglasses by Australian newcomer Sener Besam – and that's just for starters.

You'll need a private jet at your beck and call too, and one of the best is London based VistaJet. Book a large-cabin Bombardier 6000 with luxurious fittings, gourmet food, on board staff and room for 15 of your closest buddies (but keep it to six if you all want beds) and let their 24/7 service team pick you up and drop you off wherever you want to go.

But why not aim higher and opt for one of Space Adventure's suborbital round trips? Over two days, the company says it can train, outfit & blast you up to 100kms into the stratosphere for some weightlessness and stellar selfies. Want to supersize your weekend by 2 extra weeks? Space Adventure can also organize a trip to the International Space Station on a Russian Soyuz rocket for around $50 million. No big deal.

If terra firma is more your thing, then do like the megarich and book the Grand Penthouse 'super suite' at The Mark for US$90,000 a night. It may be earth's most expensive one-night stand, but you get – top two floors, five bedrooms, custom-made furniture, a library lounge, two wet bars, plus a dining room for 24, private hairdressing and suit tailoring and your own elevator to a rooftop terrace, where renowned chef Jean-Georges will serve your dinner.

Too sedate? Then the ultimate "try before you die" experience is an Everest Skydive. Anyone can slog to the summit, but take a helicopter to 9,000 metres and jump out so you just float past all those rock faces and ravines to land on one of the world's highest drop zones at Amadablam Basecamp. It's an exclusive club of around 350 people, but the company will professionally video and photograph the fall.

If you prefer to go even faster, then Switzerland-based MiGFlug is for you. You hop into the cockpit of some of the world's fastest and meanest fighter jets, including the MiG-29, L-39 Albatross and Hawker Hunter, for everything from supersonic flights to low passes and all sorts of stomach churning manoeuvres. All peformed by a qualified pilot of course.

"ANYONE CAN SLOG TO THE SUMMIT, BUT **TAKE A HELICOPTER TO 9,000 METRES AND JUMP OUT** SO YOU JUST FLOAT PAST ALL THOSE ROCK FACES AND RAVINES"

Once you land, head to the States and pick up your very own deep sea submersible from Triton for a cool $6 million or so. With its spacey spherical acrylic hull, air conditioning, high-powered LEDs and 96 hours of oxygen, the Triton 6600/2 can dive more than a mile down, making it the world's deepest diving submersible that's truly in a league of its own.

You'll probably get hungry at some point, and so the $4000 per head, 20-course degustation at Sublimotion at the Hard Rock Hotel in Ibiza, Spain should hit the spot. Billed as the world's costliest meal – or "show" as they prefer to call it – the 3-hour tasting menu for 12 comes with around 25 wait staff, DIY cocktails, 360-degree projections, neon dining tables, and multi-sensory, "experimental technique" dishes.

After dinner head to The Ritz Club in London to make like James Bond "sipping exquisitely made cocktails while playing a shrewd hand." From the spectacular gaming salon in the former ballroom of the Ritz Hotel to the ultra exclusive and discreet "salles privees", this is elite gaming at the highest level as you face off against high rollers and celebrities at American Roulette, Blackjack, \Three Card Poker 24 hours a day.

If you've still got some money left, it's time to get your Le Mans on. Germany's Global Racing Schools offers the most decadent driving trip on the planet. Take the wheel of a brand new Bugatti Veyron Grand Sport Vitesse, Lamborghini Aventador, Lamborghini Huracan, Ferrari 488 GTB or Mercedes-Benz AMG GTS. Along the way you eat at Michelin starred restaurants and stay at 5-star hotels. Not a bad way to while away the weekend.

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TOP TO BOTTOM / BEN SHERMAN GABARDINE BLAZER $249.95 / VICOMTE MINI CHECK SPOT L/S SHIRT $160.00 / BEN SHERMHAN EC1 SLIM STRETCH CHINO $119.95 / FLORSHEIM BEAUMONT SHOE $199.95 / BARNABY JAMAL SOCK $19.95

Springvision

Sunnies will make or break your outfit. Case closed. If you're new to the market, stick to the classics, Ray-Ban and Oakley. If you're looking for something with a little more edge, then look no further than Giorgio Armani

GIORGIO ARMANI AR 6034Z
ARMANI.COM/AU
This iconic model, the star of the Giorgio Armani Man catwalk, is the result of a precise aesthetic vision, combining impeccable elegance with a sophisticated design. The natural horn frame front is embellished with black nylon injection-molded eye shields, affixed to the temples with distinctive double rivets that give the glasses a retro look. The frame front's mask shape gives the model a strong, masculine appeal. The ultra-flat lenses complete the frame front's exclusive design. The iconic Giorgio Armani logo is laser-engraved on the metal bridge. The natural colors include brown horn and beige horn. The model comes in elegant dedicated packaging.

ORIGINAL WAYFARER CLASSIC RAY-BAN.COM
Ray-Ban Original Wayfarer Classics are the most recognizable style in the history of sunglasses. Since its initial design in 1952, Wayfarer Classics gained popularity among celebrities, musicians, artists and those with an impeccable fashion sense.

As an iconic style of sunglasses, Original Wayfarer Classics always make a statement. Choose a classic pair of black-framed Wayfarer sunglasses from a variety of lens treatments including crystal green, crystal grey gradient, G-15 polarized and more.

OAKLEY ENDURO™ INK COLLECTION AU.QAKLEY.COM
Inspired by the big screen and music icons of the '60s, Enduro™ is all about replicating the rebel attitude with refinement. Enduro™ is a comfortably lightweight O Matter® frame with a vintage look courtesy of its smooth, rounded curves, metal accents and carved lines.

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Springstyles

THE BEST STYLES YOU SHOULD BE ROCKING THIS SPRING

As the warmer months roll around there is no better time than spring to feature a stylish pair of chinos, a classy pair of brogues and a nice jacket. Here's what looks you should be rocking this spring-time.

BEIGE CHINOS

They're like a great pair of jeans and just as versatile; you can mix them with jackets, blazers, t-shirts... well, the list goes on.

The same pair of chinos could make your favourite blazer pop with a feel of sophistication and elegance or merge into a sense of effortless-cool with a coloured T-shirt.

Spring style is all about playing with traditional colours, so beige chinos or trousers work perfectly as a canvas to bounce colours off of. Try contrasting your chinos with deep navies, blues and bright, bold colours.

A pair of beige trousers or chinos in a sartorial mismatch with a check or stripe jacket is an amazing combination for the spring racing season too.

BROGUES

Chinos are an ideal partner to contrast with a pair of striking brogues. Brogues are really versatile too, as you can use them to set off a casual, smart-casual or a more formal look, depending on how you decide to style them.

Tan brogues and chinos would work equally in the modern workplace as for a night out in spring. A white oxford shirt, khaki chinos and a pair of brogues would be a splendid, well-rounded spring look.

PATTERNED SHIRTS

Try and keep your look casual and relaxed with a patterned shirt. A darker toned shirt works just as well as a light one, but with this look remember to contrast colours to really nail the style.

Pairing your chinos with a classic checked or dotted shirt would really resonate at casual events, like daytime drinks at a bar or at a day at the beach. You can even experiment with a textured look on the shirt and pair with dark wayfarers to complete that vintage look.

And continuing with the 50s theme, try sporting an on-trend bomber jacket to capture that roguish, rebellious look.

LOOK I

LOOK II

Springstyles

LOOK ONE

JULIUS MARLOW WARTHOG CHELSEA BOOT $179.95 / CONVERSE TUMBLED LTH WTH TRAINER $140.00 / BEN SHERMAN DOBBY RAINDROP L/S SHIRT $99.95 / BEN SHERMAN MARL TARTAN SHIRT $99.95 / BEN SHERMAN L/S GINGHAM SHIRT $99.95 / BEN SHERMAN EC1 SLIM STRETCH CHINO $119.95

LOOK TWO

GAZMAN WOOL LINEN & SILK BLAZER $299.00 / BEN SHERMAN MARL TARTAN SHIRT $99.95 / SCOTCH & SODA CLASSIC CREW NECK JUMPER $109.95 / SCOTCH & SODA CLASSIC V-NECK S/S TEE $59.95 / JULIUS MARLOW BOA BOOT $139.95 / BARNABY BUCK SOCK $19.95 / ACADEMY BRAND WEEKEND CHINO $99.00

LOOK THREE

FLINDERS LANE 2 BUTTON SINGLE BREASTED BLAZER $249.95 / SCOTCH & SODA SHAWL COLLAR JUMPER $299.95 / GAZMAN EASY CARE TWILL CHECK $89.95 / JULIUS MARLOW BOA BOOT $139.95 BARNABY HENRY SOCK $19.95 / AVAILABLE THROUGH WWW.KENTANDLIME.COM.AU

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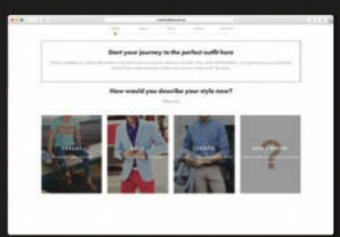

1 / Complete your style profile
Kent and Lime pair you with a real stylist who will select clothes based on your style, size and preferences. No extra costs - just good service!

2 / Try it on and and start looking good
Take three days to try on your clothes at home. They'll check in to see how you're going. This service is here to get you looking good!

3 / Only pay for what you keep
Keep what you like and return what you don't want. Shipping both ways is only $20 for Sydney and $30 for the rest of Australia.

Springtime

Why not go with something a little different this Spring? Show your individual style and sophistication in the 'finer things' with one of these innovative, attention grabbing timepieces.

BRADLEY ELEMENT
SHOPNA.EONE-TIME.COM
The Bradley Element features an innovative, three-dimensional surface – unlike any of the other Bradley models. The topography of the watch face contours toward each marker in alternating raised and lowered impressions. The redesigned case body is engineered from highly durable, scratch-resistant ceramic and is coated with a PVD plating, adding an extra level of durability. Completed by an adjustable, stainless steel mesh strap and an all-black matte finish, The Bradley Element offers cutting-edge design and quality materials all in one timepiece.

DIMENSIONS
40 MM (DIAMETER) / 11.5 MM (THICKNESS)
CASE MATERIAL
STAINLESS STEEL / CERAMICS
WRISTBAND MATERIAL
STAINLESS STEEL MESH
BATTERY
RENATA 371 BUTTON CELL WATCH

AVRA 1-HUNDRED >
AVRAWATCHCOMPANY.COM
The 1-Hundred is the first model from the new AVRA Watch Company and pioneers a novel dual interface design. Apart from the conventional hour and minute hand watch face, the 1-Hundred is defined by an auxiliary time display that wraps around the side of the case as an alternative way of telling the time.

< G-SHOCK: MTG-G1000 GSHOCK.COM
The MTG-G1000 is the third G-Shock to have the GPS hybrid technology. This feature combines Multi-Band 6 radio wave timekeeping with GPS satellite signal reception to provide accurate time syncing and time zone adjustment anywhere in the world. It also features anti-glare coating and Triple G Resist for resistance to shock, centrifugal gravitational force, and extreme vibration.

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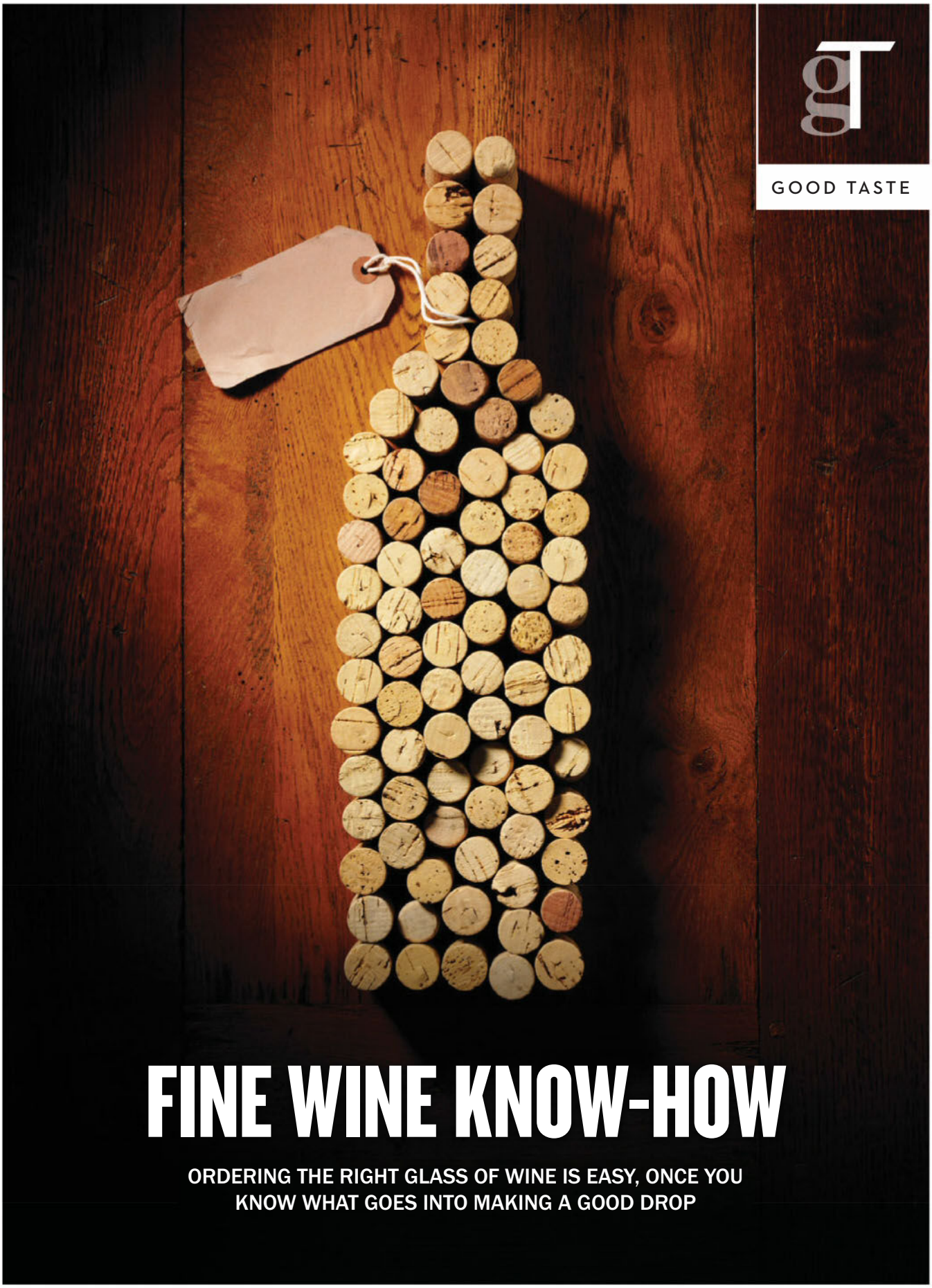

FINE WINE KNOW-HOW

ORDERING THE RIGHT GLASS OF WINE IS EASY, ONCE YOU KNOW WHAT GOES INTO MAKING A GOOD DROP

TALK THE TALK

WINE TASTING LIKE A PRO

SPRING is fast approaching, it's time to come out of winter hibernation and open up our social calendar. What better way to 'spring' into the warmer weather than to check out some of the country's best wine tasting tours? Australia is renowned for a great many things – but it's no secret that we have some of the best plonk this side of – well – anywhere really. Australian wineries are some of the best out there, regularly featuring on the world stage and even sometimes topping the competition. So why not go straight to the source and check out any one of our celebrated wine regions to see what the rest of the world is talking about.

You've seen people swish and swirl wine around in a glass, and stick their nose in for a good sniff. Yes, they look ridiculous, and no this isn't how pretentious people get drunk – tasting wine is about much more than just drinking. It's a sensory experience, and first, you need to examine with your eyes and nose.

You can discover a lot about a wine from how it looks; it should be brilliantly shiny and clear. Hint: more colour usually indicates more flavour, and as a general rule darker wines are more mature. Swirl the wine in the glass to assess its legs (viscosity) – the greater the amount, the thicker the body and the higher the alcohol content and/or sweetness.

Your nose can pick up on thousands of different aromas and flavours, whereas taste buds can only detect four distinct tastes – sweet, salty, sour and bitter. So give your wine a swirl and assess it with your nose. How intense is it? Can you identify any flavours? Not everyone will have the same experience, so don't be alarmed if you smell peaches and she smells pine trees.

Finally, you drink it. Take a decent sip, savour it, swish it around in your mouth – hit all the taste hotspots.

Generally speaking, taste receptors on the tongue go like this: sweet = front and middle; salty = front and sides; sour = back and sides; bitter = back.

OUR NOSE CAN PICK UP ON THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENT AROMAS AND FLAVOURS, WHEREAS TASTE BUDS CAN ONLY DETECT FOUR DISTINCT TASTES – SWEET, SALTY, SOUR AND BITTER

The initial flavour of wine hits different parts of your tongue and develops in the mouth. It may be sweet or acidic, or dry and tannic. The age old question: do you spit, or swallow? In many wine tasting tours people prefer to spit the drink after every sip, but honestly, it doesn't make a huge difference. Either way, you can feel the aftertaste of the wine develop, and as the lingering flavours slowly leave you, you're left with its finish.

Use words like, "balanced", "complex" and "elegant"…and now you can taste wine like a pro!

THE DNA OF WINE

There are four basic components of wine: acidity, sweetness, alcohol and tannin.

> ACIDITY

Acidity in wine is basically how sour it tastes, and is perceived as that mouthwatering, puckering sensation at the back of your jaw. Highly acidic wines are often described as 'zingy' or 'tart', whereas lower acidity wines tend to be 'creamy' and 'smooth'.

> SWEETNESS

This is the amount of natural sugar in a wine. The tip and top of the tongue are where we sense sweetness, so it's generally the first taste you'll get when taking a sip. Sweet wines are generally made from white grapes unless it's a dessert wine.

> ALCOHOL

The alcohol level can add texture and 'body' to the wine — think of the body as how the wine rests on your palate. Often likened to milk and cream, is it subtle like skim, heavier like whole, or decadent like cream? This gives you a rough idea of the textures of light, medium and full-bodied wines.

> TANNIN

A characteristic found in red wine, tannin is a bitter acid perceived on the middle of your tongue and roof of the mouth as a drying sensation, like eating cotton wool. Tannin naturally exists in the skins and seeds of grapes and oak barrels.

SPRING WINE EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

SA 2nd-4th: Barossa Gourmet Weekend - Established in 1985, this event is a jewel in Australia's culinary crown. As winter thaws and blossoms begin to bloom, take the opportunity to visit the Barossa and experience their warm hospitality, sumptuous food and delectable wine. Join the region's best food and wine producers as they host a whole weekend of parties to welcome in the Spring. Tanunda City Centre.

OCTOBER

NSW 9th: Pinot Palooza - This festival, now in its fifth year, will feature wine from over 100 of Australia and New Zealand's hottest wineries. There will also be fantastic food offerings too, with some of our country's favourite chefs making delicious dishes to match. All tickets include an epic crystal Plumm RedB glass valued at $35! It is a national touring festival, travelling to Adelaide (6th August), Perth (13th August), Sydney (9th October), Melbourne (15th October) and Brisbane (16th October).

NOVEMBER

VIC 10th-13th: Taste of Melbourne - A stunning celebration of Melbourne's unique, vibrant culinary scene, this four-day festival offers 'taste' sized portions from some of the city's best restaurants, allowing you to design your ideal tasting menu. Albert Park, Melbourne.

WA 18th-20th: Margaret River Gourmet Escape - Boasting some of the most stunning scenery in Australia, this festival is a three-day culinary extravaganza. Release your inner sommelier in the Wine Lounge and don't miss the sunset beach barbeques.The heart of the festival is the Gourmet Village at the iconic Leeuwin Estate Winery, Margaret River.

VINEYARDS

WINE REGIONS IN AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA is home to an amazing array of diverse climates that are beautifully reflected in over 60 wine regions across the country. The three major players in Australia's wine game are South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. But not to be forgotten is Western Australia, whose proximity to the ocean and mild weather make it the ultimate destination for a wine pilgrimage.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

> Barossa

Just 45 minutes from Adelaide are the vine-covered rolling hills of the Barossa Valley. Home to some of the oldest living vineyards in the world, the Barossa's flagship wine is big-bodied Shiraz. The best time of year to go is Autumn, just after harvest, or Spring when the wine trails are quieter.

> Adelaide Hills

One of the largest wine regions in the country, the Hills are recognised for their elegant, premium wines, most notably their crisp Sauvignon Blancs and twinkling sparkling wines. Go in Autumn to walk amongst the trees as they change colour, or get cosy by an open fire in Winter.

NSW

> Hunter Valley

Although Semillon is their most iconic drop, the Hunter offers a wide variety for the wine enthusiast. Autumn is the prime time to visit - the vineyards ignite with autumnal colours, and the Hunter's most popular event, The Lovedale Long Lunch, takes place.

> Riverina

The little-known Riverina is the second largest wine producing region in Australia and has a reputation for producing premium Shiraz, Chardonnay and Semillon wines.

VICTORIA

> Yarra Valley

Renowned for producing Australia's finest Pinot Noir and sparkling wine. In late Summer, the Yarra plays host to some of the country's top chefs, and many of the wineries host feasts and events throughout the month.

> Mornington Peninsular

Famous for its Pinot Noir, the Mornington Peninsular has the best of both worlds: idyllic, isolated beaches and hidden hinterland hamlets. Go in Summer to enjoy the beach, or help the Queen celebrate her birthday in June with Mornington's Winter Wine Weekend.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

> Margaret River

Hugged by the ocean on three sides, the Margaret River is one of the most isolated grape growing regions in the world. The backbone of the region's industry is its Cabernet Sauvignon, but they also make some of the country's greatest Chardonnay. Check out the four-day Margaret River Gourmet Escape in November.

> Swan Valley

The charming wineries are small, boutique and family-run, priding themselves on producing the country's best Chenin Blanc and Verdelho. The best way to experience the area is the award-winning Food and Wine Trail – a 32-kilometre scenic drive allowing you to experience over 150 attractions. Go in Spring to see the region at its blooming best.

MEET THE WINEMAKER

NEIL MCGUIGAN

What exactly is a winemaker?
A winemaker is a very simple person. All you have to do is convert sugar into alcohol using grapes. It's not that hard.

Why did you get into this profession?
My dad and brother were both winemakers and we lived at the winery in the Hunter Valley. As a result from a very young age, I was surrounded by vineyards, grapes, barrels, tanks and I suppose that's where I got my love for the industry.

How do you become a winemaker?
You can become a winemaker in a number of different ways; learning on the job is where a lot of excellent winemakers were educated however, I was lucky enough to be able to go to Roseworthy Agricultural College in South Australia where I achieved a degree in Oenology (winemaking). Those of us who went to Roseworthy would say that it is the world's best wine college!!

What's your favourite bottle right now?
The McGuigan Shortlist GSM (Grenache, Shiraz, Mourvedre) is my favourite drink at present. I love red wines that are rich, soft and fleshy but don't have large amounts of tannin. This wine really fits the bill.

What's your wine philosophy?
It's very simple.
1. Make the wine the hero
2. Over deliver on quality at every price point.
3. Ensure that wine expresses the true character of the variety
4. Do not make wine elite, embrace your consumers into wine

What's happening with Chardonnay? Is it making a comeback?
Chardonnay is the prince of white grape varieties. Australia lost the plot last decade and made Chardonnays far too alcoholic, far too oaky and too fat. We have reset the dial over the last decade and we are making chardonnays that are true to variety, rich and flavoursome but with lovely acidity which makes them easy to drink and complement a large range of food. Chardonnay is definitely on the way back.

OVERRATED/UNDERRATED

Sauvignon Blanc: Overrated
MasterChef: Underrated
Kale: Overrated – have iceberg lettuce instead
Pinot Noir: definitely overrated
Burgers: underrated
Doughnuts: Overrated
Cricket: underrated
Matcha: overrated
Tomato sauce: underrated
Champagne: underrated
Cheddar cheese: underrated
Hummus: underrated
Quinoa: overrated
Whisky: American Whisky overrated, Irish Whiskey underrated

If you could only drink one wine for the rest of your life, what would it be?
Shiraz. When you say Shiraz most people think you are talking about big, rich intense tannic red wine. But coming from Australia now we have a range of styles that represent the diverse nature of our climate across the country. You can discover soft and savoury Shiraz from the Hunter Valley through to white pepper and elegant Shiraz from the Adelaide Hills to spicy, blackberry Heathcote Shiraz all the way through to traditional plummy and powerful Barossa Shiraz. All of these wines can go with a whole variety of food and can match the four seasons at the same time.

Any predictions for the wine industry over the next 5 years?
Corporately, the wine industry will continue to rationalise with the big end of town getting bigger. The value of the Australian dollar will be the driver for growth as two-thirds of the wine that is made in Australia is exported. Technically you will see the emergence of new and exciting varieties such as Gruner Veltliner, Montepulciano, Carmenere and the return of a terrific grape variety that was popular many years ago and is incredibly popular in the UK – Malbec. What consumers will be after will be wines that are more "fleshy" on the palate and that are more food friendly. The above varieties will give this to the consumers.

+ FOOD FACTS

PICKLING, FERMENTING AND PRESERVING

Pickling is thought to have originated in India over 4,000 years ago and since then has been used all over the world for its nutritional value and delicious results. It is the process of preserving or elongating the life span of food either by fermentation in brine or saturation in vinegar.

Through this process, whole foods are turned into probiotic powerhouses. The nutrients are enhanced, boosting levels of good

FOOD TRENDS

WHERE TO EAT THIS SPRING

> HONCHO, Melbourne CBD
It may look like a decrepit old building now, but by the time Spring rolls in, Melbourne's Chinatown will have a new player entering the game. Chef Adam Liston's newest venture, Honcho, will combine Japanese, Korean and Chinese influences with two main focuses: yakitori (Japanese-style chicken skewers) and seafood. If you can't wait until September, Liston has set up a pop-up noodle at The Windsor, running until the end of August.

> DEATH STAR CANTEEN, Brisbane CBD
Inspired by Star Wars and comedian Eddie Izzard, Tanya and Glenn Morris have opened up their very own Death Star Canteen, to brighten up Brisbane's CBD. The café features subtle nods to the franchise, with local and ethically sourced produce a priority. May the forks be with you.

EXPECT GOOD VIBES, GREAT SERVICE AND EXCEPTIONAL FOOD

> LONG CHIM, Perth CBD
Recently named as one of Australia's Top 100 restaurants, this trendy venue is located in the vaulted cellar beneath Perth's newly renovated State Buildings. Chef and scholar David Thompson has created a bold, explosive menu that is anything but generic, with a perfect Thai-inspired cocktail menu to match. Expect good vibes, great service and exceptional food. And in May this year, it was announced that Long Chim is heading to Sydney, with doors opening mid-August.

> A.P.E, Potts Point
Ape, which stands for Artisan Pasta Espresso, is the lifelong dream of restaurateur, chef and owner, Antonio Sabia. It's a retail store, selling cakes and pastries, as well as fresh pasta. With the capacity to seat 12, you've got to get in quick. APE also happens to be the name of the iconic three-wheeled scooters seen all over Italy, one of which Sabia is currently customising for his home-delivery service.

bacteria in your digestive tract and improving the health and balance of your body's bacterial community.

Lucky for you, it's easier than ever to get your fix, thanks to Australia's fermented renaissance, which is bringing obscure products like kombucha and kimchi into mainstream shops and restaurants.

HEALTHWATCH

TOP 5 HEALTHIEST PICKLED AND FERMENTED FOODS

KIMCHI
This is a traditional fermented Korean dish made from vegetables, with spices and seasoning. Kimchi is rich in vitamins A and C, high in antioxidants, and is known to improve cardiovascular health. Due to its fermentation process, it is also high in gut-boosting lactobacilli bacteria.

KOMBUCHA
This is a fermented drink of black tea and natural sugars, sourced from honey and fruit. It's trendy at the moment, with a few cafes around Sydney even tapping it. Kombucha is known to improve digestion, boost libido, increase energy, help with weight loss, support the immune system, reduce joint pain, cleanse and detoxify.

PICKLES
Pickles contain a good supply of essential vitamins, antioxidants and minerals, such as iron and potassium. They are low in calories and contribute to modest control of diabetes and liver protection. Pickles contain loads of probiotic and gut-friendly bacteria, which helps improve digestion.

MISO
A traditional Japanese seasoning, miso is essentially fermented soybeans. Commonly found as a paste, it is full of nutrients, beneficial bacteria and enzymes, and provides vitamins B12, B2, E and K. Miso also has anti-ageing properties, helps to maintain healthy skin, boosts the immune system, promotes a healthy nervous system and improves bone health.

SAUERKRAUT
One of the oldest traditional foods, sauerkraut is a staple in Germanic cuisines. It contains high levels of dietary fibre, which improves digestion, and huge amounts of vitamins A, C and K. It is a good source of iron, potassium and calcium, and contributes a moderate amount of protein to your diet.

6
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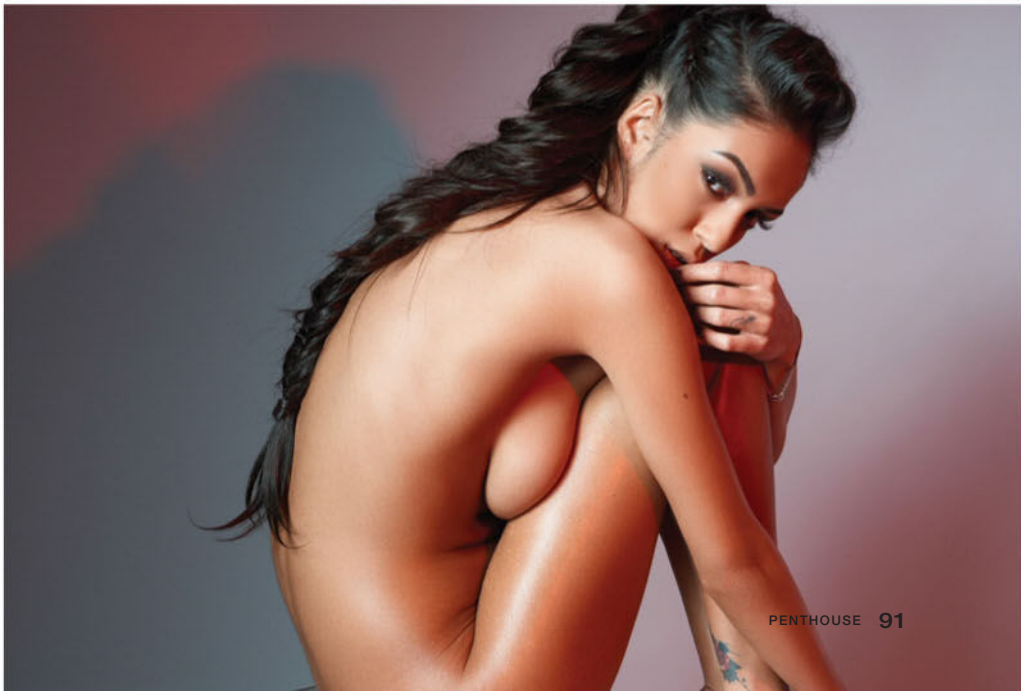

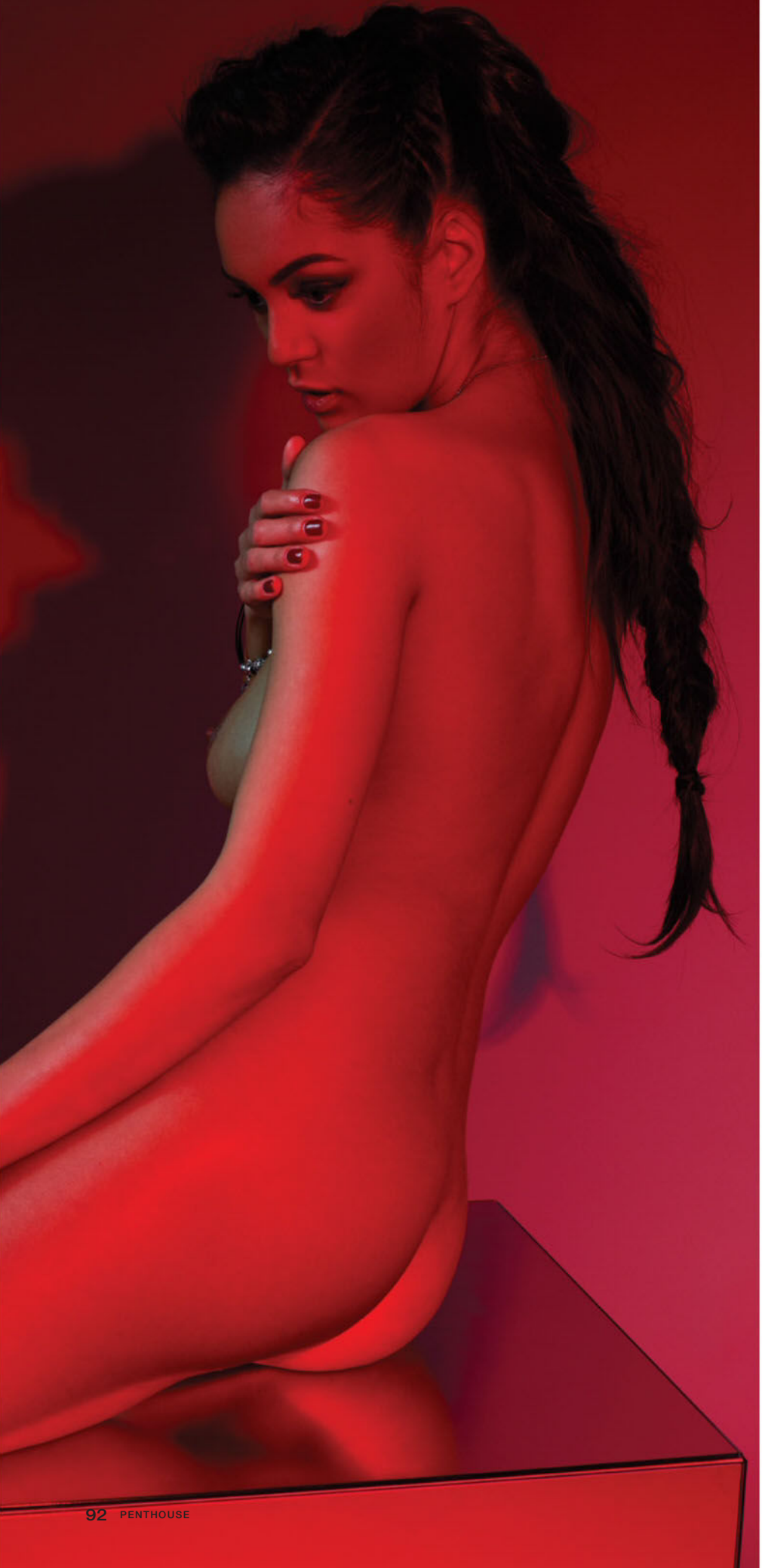

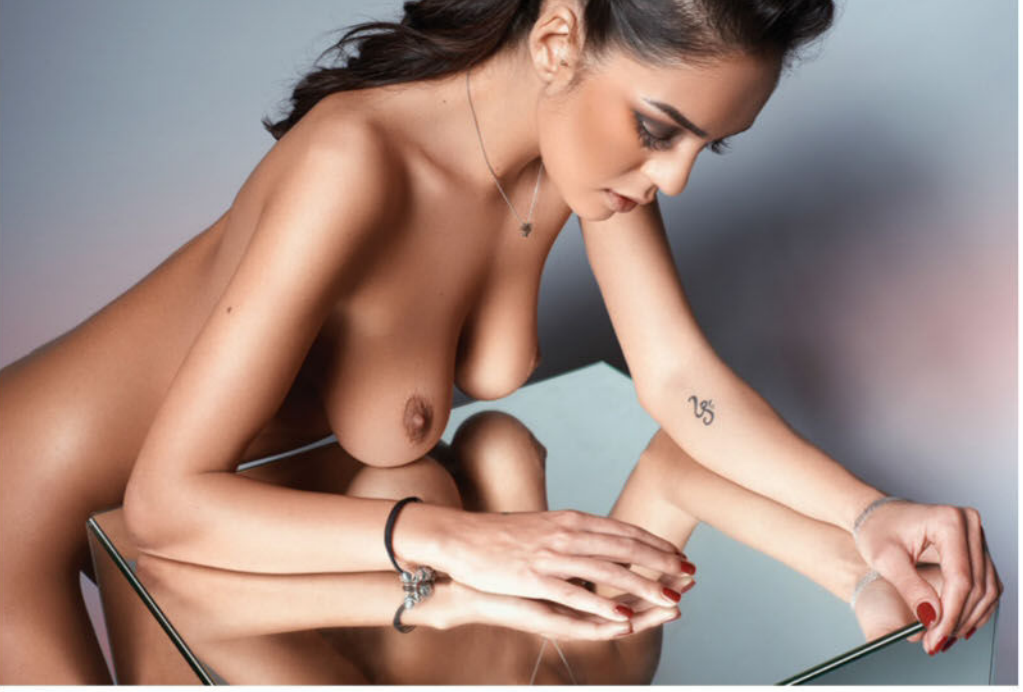

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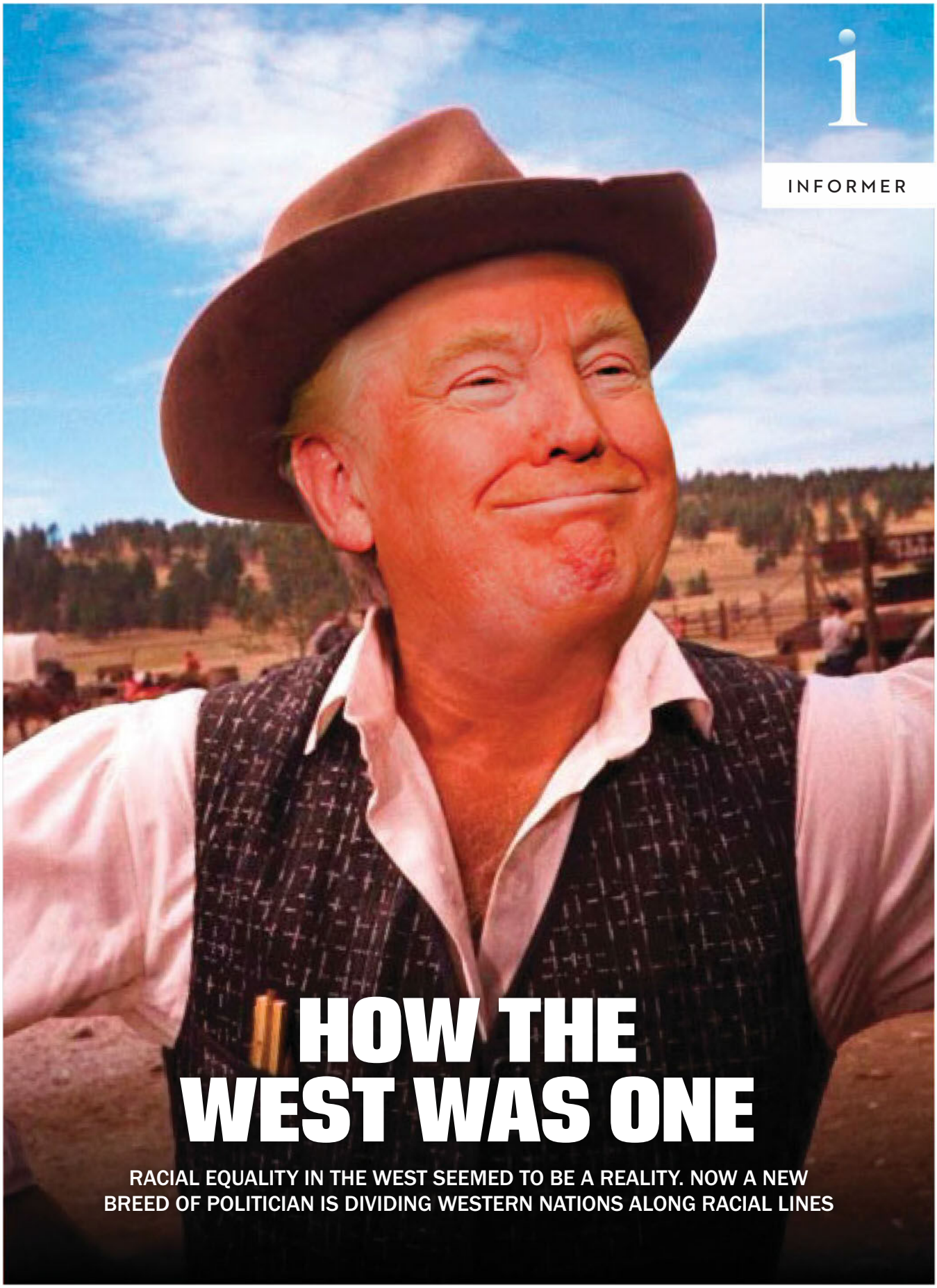
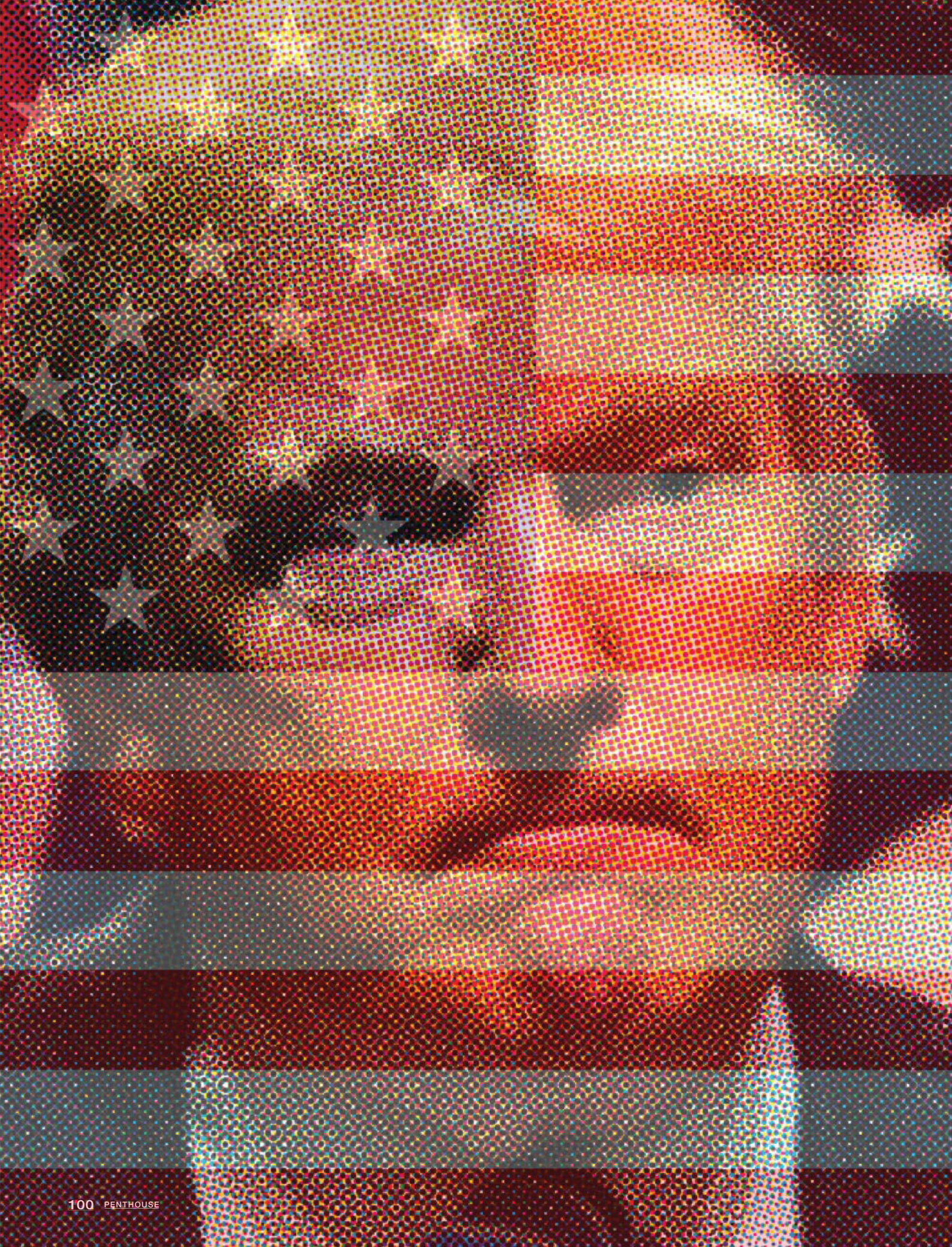


HOW THE WEST WAS ONE

RACIAL EQUALITY IN THE WEST SEEMED TO BE A REALITY. NOW A NEW BREED OF POLITICIAN IS DIVIDING WESTERN NATIONS ALONG RACIAL LINES



RACE RELATIONS

THE OLD POLITICAL CLASS IS DISAPPEARING. IN THEIR PLACE, A NEW BRAND OF RIGHT WING POPULISTS WITH A DIVISIVE AGENDA HAVE COME TO POWER **BRENDAN O'NEILL** INVESTIGATES

JUST when you thought the Western world had moved beyond racism, consigning those ugly prejudices to the shredding machine of history, xenophobia seems to come back into fashion.

In recent decades, following civil rights uprisings in the US and anti-racist campaigning across Europe and Australia, the West felt more racially relaxed than ever. A black man moved into the White House, becoming the most powerful person on Earth. The N-word was far more likely to be heard in a No1 hip-hop song, possibly sung by a black rapper worth tens of millions of dollars, than in a street-corner tussle.

And blacks and whites mixed more than at any time in modern history. In the US in 1960, just 0.4% of marriages were interracial; last year, 8.4% were. In the UK, the number of people living with or married to someone from a different ethnic group rose by a staggering 35%, to 2.3 million, between the 1990s and 2014. And they're having lots of kids: the number of British people describing themselves as mixed race has doubled over the past 15 years, rising from 660,000 in 2001 to more than 1.2 million today. A report in Australia in 2006 revealed that "most" Aboriginal men and women get married to non-Aboriginal Australians: back then, 52% of Aboriginal men and 55% of Aboriginal women were in long-term, committed relationships with non-Aboriginal people.

The West, it seemed, had made racial equality, or at least racial diversity, a reality. New rights for ethnic minorities, the surge in interracial relationships, and frenetic cultural mixing among the young – with young blacks borrowing from white culture and young whites from black culture – all pointed to a new, historic era for the Western world: one in which, for the first time in centuries, skin colour seemed to count for little. The civil-rights idea had won out.

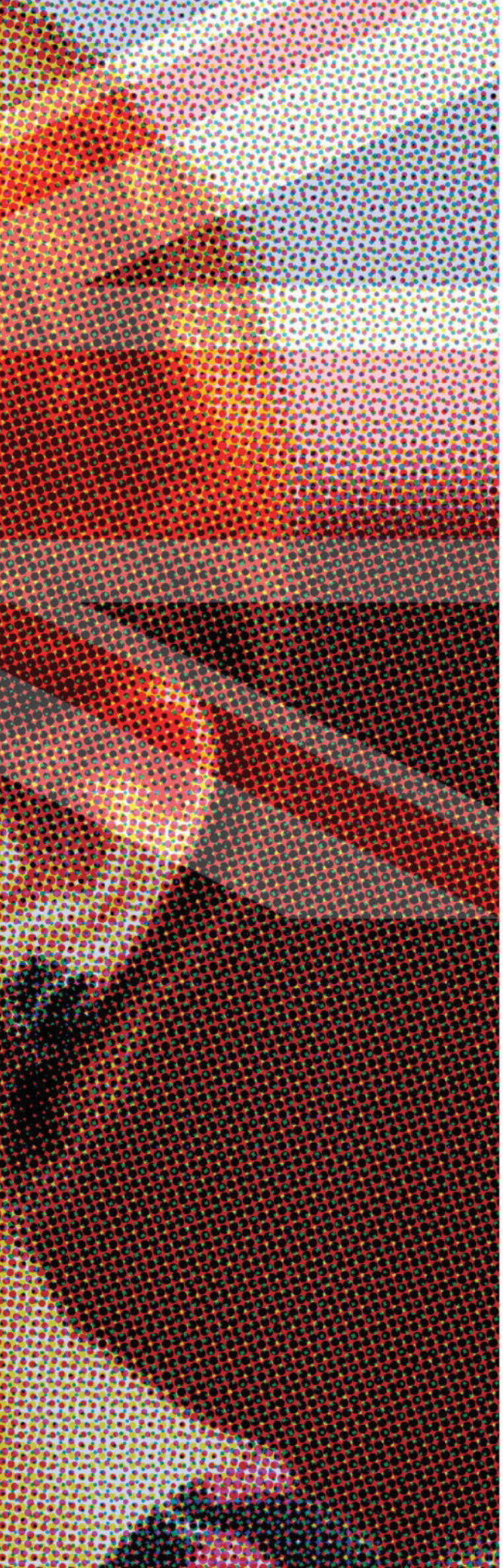
Is that changing now? Many are worried that it is. There appears to be a backtracking on this relaxation of racial tensions. New populist movements are gaining ground by scaremongering about migrants and spreading panic about the incompatibility of certain cultures, and the people who adhere to them, with the modern West. From Donald Trump, who wants to wall out Mexicans and ban Muslim migration, to Pauline "I'll never eat halal" Hanson in Australia, to various xenophobic parties making gains across Europe, it seems racial worry, and even racial tension is back on the agenda.

> ‘FROM DONALD TRUMP TO PAULINE HANSON IT SEEMS RACIAL WORRY, AND EVEN RACIAL TENSION IS BACK ON THE AGENDA’

The Economist calls this a new "drawbridges up" attitude. It says the old left-right divide that defined politics in the West for nearly 200 years has given way to a new split between the racially chilled-out and the racially freaked-out; between those who are open to other, different people and cultures and those who are made uncomfortable by them.

"From Warsaw to Washington, the political divide that matters is less and less between left and right, and more and more between open and closed", the Economist says. Yes, there are still clashes between "tax-cutting conservatives" and "free-spending social democrats", it continues, but there is now a more "potent" divide: "Welcome immigrants or keep them out? Embrace cultural change or resist it?"

The American magazine Salon goes further, arguing that "fascism is all the rage in Europe, and it's coming to America". In dramatic tones, it says "the spectre of fascism has loomed over Europe for several years, and now it has reached a fever pitch":



"In France, the United Kingdom, Austria, Greece, Denmark and Sweden, right-wing nationalist movements are gaining steam with every election." And now, says Salon, America is falling victim to this ugly new politics, too. Witness, it says, the "fascistic undertones of Trump's campaign".

Is this right? Is the Western world experiencing a resurgence of racism, possibly even neo-fascism? Or is the rise of a new, odd and sometimes ugly politics the product of something more complicated than that? Is hatred really on the march, or are we witnessing the corrosion of the old political class and the movement of opportunistic new groups into the vacuum left behind?

It certainly seems as if intolerant groups and individuals are gaining a foothold in the world of politics. The relative ease with which Trump became the Republican Party's presidential candidate has stunned many. The success of Hanson's One Nation party – which runs on the slogan "No more mosques, sharia law, halal certification or Muslim refugees" – has likewise startled observers. Nationally, Hanson's outfit polled 4.26% in the Senate, including 9.03% in Queensland. Its four Senators already have made an impact: the Greens staged a rather melodramatic walk-out when Hanson gave her maiden speech, in which she said Australia risks being "swamped by Muslims".

‘IS HATRED REALLY ON THE MARCH, OR ARE WE WITNESSING THE CORROSION OF THE OLD POLITICAL CLASS AND THE MOVEMENT OF OPPORTUNISTIC NEW GROUPS INTO THE VACUUM LEFT BEHIND?’

In Europe, things are even more stark. In almost every country, hard-right and xenophobic parties are making waves. In the most recent national elections in Europe, the Freedom Party of Austria, which promises to stop all immigration, won 35.1% of the Austrian vote; The Finns, a nationalist Finnish party, won 18% of votes in Finland; the hard-right Danish People's Party won 21% of Danes' votes; the National Front, a virulently anti-immigration and French nationalist party, won 14% of French votes; Jobbik, a radical nationalist Hungarian party, won 21% of the vote in Hungary; and Golden Dawn, a far-right party in Greece that actually flirts with neo-Nazi ideas, won 7% of Greek people's votes.

Not surprisingly, these stats, these shifts in many Western adults' voting habits, have alarmed political analysts. Thane Rosenbaum, the distinguished essayist, goes so far as to say that Europe is experiencing another "Weimar moment" – a reference to the Nazi takeover of the German Weimar Republic in 1933.

He says that "all across the Atlantic the fringe is looking more and more like the mainstream". There are some understandable causes to this "dash toward extremism", he says – such as "economic recession, the ongoing European debt crisis, and high

unemployment" – but the ultimate driver is a new "anti-foreigner rhetoric".

But surely some perspective is needed here? The return of Nazism? However worrying the new politics might be, such claims are not borne out by the facts. Indeed, probably the most striking thing about the rise of a sometimes hard-edged right-wing populism is that it coexists with an ongoing racial tolerance.

The Washington Post recently reported on a fascinating study of the most and least racially tolerant countries in the world. Based around the question "Would you accept a racial minority as a neighbour?", the study showed that people in the United Kingdom, the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand – some of the nations currently being talked up as sites of the new intolerance – were most likely to embrace people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. India and Jordan, strikingly, were the least tolerant countries.

In Europe, the picture is even more complicated. Some nations show a rise in intolerant attitudes, while others, including some in which populist parties have made gains, show a decline. As a Rand Europe report titled "Intolerance in Western Europe" recently showed, "there is wide variations in levels of expressed intolerance both across countries and over time in Western Europe over the past 30 years".

The most recent European Values Survey – which measures populations' attitudes on matters of race, culture and immigration – showed that in Austria, Finland and the Netherlands, "intolerance has been rising against many groups". But in Belgium, France and Spain, "intolerance against most groups has been declining". So in France, the National Front has become a major political player, yet racial attitudes are improving. This is clearly more complicated than there simply being a new Nazism on the march across the West.

Some thinkers argue that we are not witnessing the return of hard racism, but rather that right-wing nationalism has gained in influence because of economic downturn. In other words, some people are turning to eccentric right-wing groups, not because they harbour a deep loathing of other races, but because economic recession has made them deeply concerned for their future well-being and, as a consequence, more concerned about the possibility of foreign, possibly cheaper labour undercutting their wages or even taking their work.

Last year, the Munich-based Institute for Economic Research studied more than 800 European elections going back 150 years, to 1870, and found that harsher parties always tend to do well in times of economic hardship. And it argued that this turn towards new parties that seem to be about closing nations off to foreign migrants and influence is usually short lived. This is the "good news", it said: "The political upheaval in the wake of financial crises is merely a temporary phenomenon."

Other observers, however, think there is something more profound going on in the rise of populist, immigration-concerned parties. They argue that it isn't a simple return of the racism or the strange political shift we always see during times of economic downturn; rather, it speaks to a deeper hollowing out of traditional politics and its replacement by something new, and unpredictable.

Author and sociologist Professor Frank Furedi says the new right-wing populism is a response to the corrosion of the old elites and their growing contempt for ordinary people. We live in an era when "the political elites are more interested in insulating themselves from the pressures of everyday life than in engaging with the real world", he says, and this has encouraged the elites to become "an increasingly technocratic and managerial oligarchy" – that is, an ever-more aloof, distant machine that doesn't so much engage with its populace as treat it as a problem to be fixed. In such a climate, says Furedi, it is inevitable that we will see the rise of the new parties that seem to, or at least claim to, speak more directly and honestly to ordinary people.

From Trump's reaching out to the white working classes abandoned by the Democrats, to UKIP's successful poaching of millions of the British Labour Party's voters, to the collapse of the social-democratic vote in Austria as many working people have shifted towards the Freedom Party, much of the success of the new "drawbridges up" movement is built upon people's feeling that the old parties, especially left-wing ones, no longer represent them or take them seriously. So the true dynamic here may well be, not the forward march of the hard right, but the falling-apart of the old elites, the hiding-away of the old elites, and the attempt by younger, more eccentric parties to take their place.

‘THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW "DRAWBRIDGES UP" MOVEMENT IS BUILT UPON PEOPLE'S FEELING THAT THE OLD PARTIES NO LONGER REPRESENT THEM’

The American writer Joel Kotkin says the political elites in recent years have given in to "technocratic authoritarianism", where they now see it as their role to correct the public. This has happened across the West, he says, in the US, the UK and Australia. So in Britain, "You've got both establishments – Labour and Conservative – on the same side, against everyone else." And in Australia, "something similar is taking place", he says: "The gentrification of the Labor party, into an upper middle-class party of professionals allied to the immigrants, and particularly to the Muslim immigrants."

The result, he says, is that the elites "forget how the vast majority of people live", and either come to ignore them or berate them. And people respond by looking to other parties – parties that seem to take their everyday concerns, about work, wealth, nation, immigration and stability, more seriously. Cue the gains of the new right. To the chattering classes currently wondering who is to blame for the rise of Trump, Hanson and the rest, Kotkin says: "Look in the mirror – it's you."

So in many ways, it seems the story of the return of racism, and maybe even fascism, is not quite right. It's a little too neat. It might actually disguise the true crisis we are living through, which is not just an economic one but also a political and cultural one, an historic one, in which the political class has become ever-more estranged from the public, opening up a space for new political movements. These new movements might just speak to the end of politics as we know it, to the final exposure of the old elites as lacking any solutions for society or respect for ordinary people. It seems those elites are more comfortable with raising fears about the "return of fascism" than they are with getting to grips with their demise and the impact it has had on the political landscape.

THREE UNWISE MONKEYS

TRUMP, FARAGE AND HANSON: WHY RACIST POLITICIANS ARE ON THE RISE

BY BRENDAN O'NEILL

JUST when you thought the West had become chilled out about race, totally cool with being a melting pot, xenophobia raises its ugly, pasty head again.

Fear of foreigners is back. From Donald Trump, with his promise to build a Mexican-deflecting forcefield around the US, to Pauline Hanson, who seems to come out in a rash at the mere mention of the word "Islam", freaking out about non-whites is all the rage.

In Europe, far-right parties are gaining ground. Standing largely on a ticket of tut-tutting over "marauding" migrants, these cranky outfits now have bulging memberships.

France's Marine Le Pen, who has called for an "immediate halt" to migration to France, is now a serious contender for office. In Germany, PEGIDA is taking to the streets to kick up a stink about a "Muslim invasion".

In Austria this year, a far-right politician nearly became president. When the birthplace of Hitler gets close to installing a new little Hitler in the presidential palace, you have to worry about the drift of politics.

In Britain, Nigel Farage may not be far right – he's really just a bumbling defender of Little England values like the right to smoke in a pub and to celebrate St George's Day without being called racist by PC dimwits.

> **'THE LEFT IN PARTICULAR HAS SHIFTED FROM RESPECTING THE WHITE WORKING CLASSES TO TREATING THEM AS A PROBLEM TO BE MANAGED'**

Yet he, too, goes in for migrant mauling. He caused a storm in the run-up to Britain's EU referendum by posing in front of a poster showing masses of migrants coming to Europe under the words "BREAKING POINT".

What's going on here? How come a Western world that in recent years did so much to shoot down racism and expand equality has taken a step back into darker times?

It's complicated. Yes, there's old-fashioned racism here. When Trump says Mexicans are rapists and Muslims are terrorists, he's tarring whole swathes of people with the same defamatory brush. That's racist. When thugs march in Germany shouting "Muslims out!", that's bigotry.

Maybe we overestimated the extent to which the West had dealt with its racism problem. Maybe we'd been lulled into a false feeling of living in a tolerant new era, when in fact, racism still sweats and festers in the slits of society.

But there are other factors to this return of xenophobia. One is the way that the white working class has been utterly abandoned, and in fact demonised, by mainstream politicians. The left in particular, from the social democrats of Germany to Labor in Australia, has shifted from respecting the white working classes to treating them as a problem to be managed: a big, fat, racist blob demanding re-education.

This has left the white poor without a political voice. So naturally they go looking for a new political voice, one which takes them seriously. Witness the march of much of the American working class behind Trump, or "bogans" warming to Hanson. These bullshitter politicians are making hay from people's feeling of having been rejected, from their anger with a mainstream that now mocks them.

Another factor is the rise of PC. The more that liberal elites tell people they mustn't criticise Islam (that's Islamophobic) or even big-up Western values (that's cultural imperialism), the more people feel the instinct to blaspheme against such PC strictures.

The elite's attempt to protect Islam and other outlooks from criticism, and its promotion of the idea that all cultures are "equally valid", has backfired badly. It has led to people saying: "Well, we think our culture is better, and we want to defend it." And given that the left and liberals won't defend Western culture, people are drawn to those who will, or who say they will: PEGIDA, Le Pen, Trump.

The final factor is what I call the weaponisation of immigration. Our rulers have become increasingly pro-migration – not because they genuinely believe in freedom of movement, but as a kind of social engineering. They hope migration will water down Western nations' traditional values and help turn us into hotbeds of relativism in which no value system is elevated over any other.

This is a dangerous game. It makes people view immigration as a *cultural* threat, as something that might radically change how they live and restrict what they may think and say.

So, it's complicated. Yes, there's racism out there. But we're also witnessing the end result of the collapse of the old politics and of the chattering classes' war on their own poor. Surprise, surprise: if politics treats people as trash, people will look for a new politics.

THE QUEEN OF BURLESQUE

DITA VON TEESE TALKS SEX APPEAL, FETISH AND THE PRESETS

BY NATHAN HARMOND

DITA Von Teese is the International Queen of Burlesque. She's an icon to women and men around the world, and one of the most sophisticated and glamorous individuals we've ever had the pleasure of laying eyes upon.

Australia went into overdrive when news hit that she would be bringing her critically acclaimed show *Strip, Strip, Hooray* down under. We were lucky enough to catch up with the burlesque queen, lingerie designer, best-selling author and international entrepreneur to talk sex appeal, fetish modelling, her latest line of lingerie and what it's like being an international icon.

What inspired you to get into fetish modelling?

That was in the 90s. I was at a fetish store because I was buying a Victorian steel boned corset and back then that was the only place that you could buy something like that. Someone had given me a mysterious address and I walked in with no idea of where I was going... and it was this world that I had never experienced. It was there that I first saw photos of Bettie Page in fetish clothing and bondage, and had the idea to become the modern version of Bettie. Looking at these fetish magazines, I thought, why isn't someone bringing back this idea of retro fetishism, like what Bettie Page did? And that's how I got my start all those years ago.

Your latest lingerie line takes inspiration from the retro-chic culture and aesthetic?

Inspired by everyday glamour, it's meant to be worn in everyday life. My collection has the elements that I love from classic 1940s-50s Hollywood and pin-up style, but I've modernized it and made wearable for every day.

You're currently in Paris. How does the attitude toward sex differ there?

People are people wherever you go but I think as far as nudity people aren't as hung up. It's different. Historically it's always been a place that's been a little more free in that way, so I guess that's never gone away. I guess in general, as far as the scene goes, there are a lot more risqué shows then there are in America. At The Crazy Horse Paris, you get parents that bring their 16 year olds to see the show. Many of my French boyfriends have told me that seeing that show was their first experience with seeing a real nude woman. On my last run there, I met several fans that were there with their parents.

Is the Dita Von Teese on stage different to the one I'd meet on the street?

Well, yes, of course I think there is a difference to what I do on stage, (laughs). I'm not an exhibitionist, and I can be quite shy in real life. I don't have an alter ego or anything, but you also won't catch me wearing a tee-shirt and jeans on the street, I don't know…I'm not sure exactly how to answer the question…I don't have an alter ego where I'm one person onstage and on the red carpet then suddenly I have a different costume for real life. I'm self-styled, self-made, and I do what I do because I love it and it's the only thing I know. My onstage and offstage persona are the same in many ways but very different in others.

What's it like being an icon for so many men and women around the world?

It's nice of you to say that and I'm happy to be recognized for all these years of work, but at the same time, with almost any degree of fame, there are just as many people who haven't heard of you. I don't walk around thinking how it feels to be an famous, I just do my work and it's great to be acknowledged by people. I'm not like Taylor Swift you know? (laughs).

She (Taylor Swift) loves writing about her ex-boyfriends, doesn't she?

Oh yeah…I've met her, she knew all about burlesque, she introduced herself to me one night at an Oscars party. She's gorgeous, no wonder she has so many boyfriends! I honestly don't know her music…I really don't listen to radio-played music; if I watch the Grammy's I don't recognize most of the artists there. I listen to more alternative music, you know, there is a whole other world apart from that glossy commercially-driven mainstream music. I don't know much about modern pop music except that it feels very different from the pop music I grew up with like Prince, Michael Jackson, David Bowie, Madonna…it's different, no?

Agreed... Who are some of your favourite artists?

I love The Presets, I'll get to catch up with them when I'm in Australia. They've been to my shows before, and I always go to their shows in Los Angeles. I also love another Australian band called Monarchy, and the band Blood Orange.

Blood Orange are amazing and The

PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE WHEREVER YOU GO, BUT I THINK AS FAR AS NUDITY PEOPLE AREN'T AS HUNG UP

PHOTO: SCOTT NATHAN

Presets are always good for a party…
Yeah, I think they're great. Whenever they come to LA I see them and I know them a little bit. I always invite them to my shows when I'm here.

It must be a hard life, the life of a touring artist…
I produce my own shows, and it's a huge undertaking to travel to Australia and bring all the props, costumes, cast and crew. It'd be so much easier to just be in a band! Traveling with a mechanical bull, a giant martini glass and oversized birdcage and all the other orate sets is not cheap! I even bring my own curtains!

A lof of people just see the glitz and the glamour, but they don't realise how much has gone on behind the scenes…
Yeah, a lot of people just see a sold out room and they say 'oh well, you sold out 3000 tickets! Well yes, but it costs me around $300,000 to put on this show for a couple weeks, so I have to sell out just to financially break even on these shows…I guess people don't realize that the costs of production are huge, they just see packed rooms. This show, it's really a labor of love for me. Sometimes I think, if I just could've been an electronic DJ, I could've just had an assistant and a hard-drive (laughs), it'd be so much easier!

Are you thinking about becoming a DJ?
Haha, no…I mean I have a lot of friends that DJs because I've been around the electronic scene since the early 90's so I know many of the big promoters and DJs. I remember when I was like 19 my rave promoter boyfriend wanted to teach me to spin vinyl, and so I do think I should have just learned to DJ back then so I could have that covetable Ibiza residency, haha

Well, it's not that hard, Paris Hilton did it…
Yeah, and she's actually quite good… people love to watch her. I've seen her play a couple of times at her foam party in Ibiza, and even though that kind new modern rave music isn't really my thing, people love her, and she's killing it in Ibiza. You can make fun of her all you want but people still go to see her play and she's doing the same thing all those guys are doing, turning knobs and stuff, haha. She's got presence and that definitely counts. It bothers me when people criticize her because she's doing the same thing the make DJs are doing, really. Choosing tracks the crowd likes, getting them worked up…

How many Louboutin's do you own?
Well, Christian Louboutin (a French luxury footwear and fashion designer) is a very close friend of mine so he keeps me well-heeled. I don't know how many I have, I've never counted, I feel like that would be a weird thing to do, to count my shoes. He makes all the shoes for my shows, and I'm really lucky to have him as a friend.

I read somewhere that he considers you a muse?
Yeah…

So, what's that like?
Umm. It's nice. There are people like him and Jean Paul Gaultier who I have admired since I was in high school and it's amazing to actually know them and have them creating things for me with me in mind, it's definitely an honour.

Do you have a favourite photographer to work with?
I really love working with Ali Mahdavi in Paris. We have a lot of things in common. We believe in glamour, in beautiful lighting and a classic Hollywood style but with a modern twist, so I really trust him, he has a great eye and I feel like some of my best photos have been taken by him. I also love Ellen von Unwerth because when you work with her, it's very free and fun, and you can do anything with her and you know the pics are going to beautiful. She has a really great eye for women's beauty and you can really let go in a photo shoot with her and you know she's going to get the best.

There are a lot of different photographers that I like for different reasons. I work with a guy called Albert Sanchez a lot, he shot all the images for my tour posters and I like to work with him, I do all the hair and makeup and it's just him and his partner and we just shoot beautiful photos without the fuss or a big team. I like the low-key, high glamour setup, you get great photos without 20 people standing around. We just do it at my house or his house and get amazing images.

What do you notice when you first go to a guys place?
Well, I guess I notice their style, like when I was dating a lot I would really clock the scene to see if our styles could ever mesh with each other. I always thought that there's no point in me falling in love with a minimalist who loves modern style. I'm a big collector of antiques and pin-up art and my style is more maximalist than minimalist. I remember going on a date with this guy and going to his slick modern stark white house and just thinking, *oh, this is not going to work* (laughs). Some people just don't have anything personal lying around, and I'm always suspicious of that, haha…They like to live in stark white space with angular, cold furniture and nothing personal around, no photos, no knick-knack, no books…I have a library with hundreds and hundreds of books. I can't imagine being interested in a man that doesn't read books! The ultra, ultra-modern is a little bit of a turn-off for me because it's not my aesthetic. It's hard to imagine co-habitating with someone that doesn't like the similar things. You don't have to like all the same things but it helps to have common interests, and honestly, I really can't stand plain white walls. It's not sexy. That being said, in the initial stages of seduction, I'd rather a man come to my house, I'd rather be in my own territory. My house is my Lair of Seduction not my aesthetic. It's hard to imagine co-habituating with someone that doesn't like the same things as you do.

It's good to notice how clean someone is, so that's important too. In saying that, I'd rather someone come to my house; I'd rather be in my territory from the beginning.

Are you a book collection, or TV kind of girl?
I have a library. I moved about six months ago and it was one of the most traumatic things ever, moving the book collection over, it was such a huge undertaking…

Are you reading anything at the moment?
Not at the moment because I've been in full showbiz mode. I was reading a book by my friend Liz Goldwyn, it's about Los Angeles in the late 1800's when it was just being settled…she wrote a semi-fictional story based on historical records here in L.A.. It's really interesting to read about L.A at that time, especially when we think about the Hollywood of the 1920s and 30s, but we don't really think a lot about LA in the time before Hollywood began, but it was quite risqué. The book is called Sporting Guide.

I JUST REMEMBER GOING ON A DATE WITH THIS GUY AND GOING TO HIS PLACE AND JUST THINKING, 'OH, THIS IS NOT GOING TO WORK'

PHOTOS: ISTOCK

KILLER DESIGN

SEAN BRUCE INVESTIGATES THE DEADLY FUTURE OF WARFARE

THE technological gap between the United States and its rivals gets smaller every year. The U.S. hopes to widen this gap by harnessing the power of Silicon Valley to create the next generation of intelligent war machines.

Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs are a core component of the insurgency in Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2006 there were more than 2500 attacks every single month – the leading cause of casualties for U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians. To this day IEDs continue to pose the greatest of threats to the aims and overall military strategy of The United States and their allies.

The soldiers charged with locating and disarming IED's are called EOD: Explosive Ordinance Disposals. EOD teams are integral in the effort to suppress these kinds of destructive attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan, disposing of about two bombs a day. An impression of how vital these soldiers are to forwarding the military ambitions of America in Iraq and Afghanistan is the $50 000 bounty that insurgent leadership has put on each EOD soldier's head.

On a typical day in Iraq, the telltale signs of an IED – the wires, the piping, the roadside location – are detected, and the EOD team are called in to handle it. Unfortunately, on this particular day, the story would not end well. Generally, you must be about 45-metres away from an explosive device when it detonates to avoid injury or death. On this occasion, the soldier charged with disarming the bomb was almost on top of it. When the IED detonated, the soldier was engulfed in flames – by the time the rest of the team caught up, there was little left.

When it came time for the unit's commander to write back to the United States and report on what had happened, he told of how they had lost one of the bravest members of their team, he spoke of how many times this particular member had saved the unit and how the team had been affected by the loss of their teammate.

The silver lining, he said, was that when a robot was killed, no one has to write a letter to its mother.

When the Iraq war began, the U.S. military only had a handful of drones at its disposal and had no unmanned ground vehicles. As of January 2014, it operated close to ten thousand drones with hundreds of thousands of hours of airtime each year, as well as more than ten thousand unmanned ground vehicles that have detected and disposed of thousands of IEDs. The U.S. is looking at increasing the responsibility of unmanned vehicles in battle roles with the idea that automation and artificial intelligence will guide these missions with a minimal human interface. The principle of Moore's Law – that each year technology develops at an exponential rate applies with deadly consequences. We won't simply be seeing tens of thousands of today's robots operating on the battlefield, but tens of thousands of futuristic robots, harnessing the capabilities of artificial intelligence, making life and death decisions. We are on the cusp of a historical revolution in warfare. When the machine gun was invented, it radically changed the way war was conducted and along with it came vast numbers of casualties. Militaries completely reassessed their strategies. The atomic bomb changed the way war was conducted again, with Cold War-like conflicts in the place of full-scale warfare, with the ultimate strategy guided by the lingering threat of Nuclear Armageddon. The introduction of robotics will be different: It's no longer about the *how* – what goes faster or what makes a bigger boom – but the *who.*

In February this year, Arati Prabhakar, Director of the Defence Advanced Research Agency, better known as DARPA, addressed the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, a council made up of members of the U.S. House of Representatives. For nearly six decades, DARPA has played an essential role in maintaining the technological supremacy of the United States military. In particular, they "pursue extremely

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challenging but potentially paradigm-shifting technologies in support of national security," according to Prabhakar. In short, they are responsible for creating technology that only exists in the realms of science fiction. From jetpacks, teleportation, mind control and robots, DARPA has long attracted the attention of conspiracy theorists for its top-secret projects and it's "black budget" to conduct far-reaching technological research. Almost everyone in the world is reaping the rewards of DARPA's efforts to bend the arc of technological history – both GPS and the Internet are right at the top of their list of achievements.

February's meeting was called so that Prabhakar could testify before the subcommittee and outline the military and technological goals of DARPA for the next few years.

This is the most advanced military technology agency in the world, explaining the future of warfare and the technology in the battlegrounds of tomorrow.

The future of warfare is being driven by different factors. The United States has traditionally been, technologically speaking, several decades ahead of its adversaries. This is due to offset strategies developed on behalf of the Department of Defence that sought to minimise the closing of the gap between the U.S. and its principal rivals.

The first offset strategy was initiated by Dwight Eisenhower and involved the mass proliferation of nuclear warheads to act as a deterrent for the rapidly growing and mechanised Soviet Army. Once the USSR had reached parity in nuclear weapon technology a second offset strategy was developed – the implementation of stealth technology, precision guidance for aircraft and complex weapons and information networks. The technological superiority of the United States during this period allowed it considerable success in 1991 and 2003 in both Gulf Wars. This strategy also provided the United States a way to maintain their military superiority despite a period of declining military spending following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

The world is rapidly changing, with technological advance and new geopolitical threats emerging, in order for the United States to continue to defend its interests and those of its allies, a third offset strategy is being developed. According to Prabhakar, "The daily fare is a noxious stew of violent extremism, terrorism and cross-border criminal activity. At the same time, the actions and the intentions of nation states in every region also demand our focus and attention. The Department has embarked on an important shift in recent years to reenergize its ability to invent, experiment with and operationalize advanced military capabilities that will be critical to deter and defeat if necessary the emerging great powers of this century."

We are at a time where the United States isn't the only nation with access to superior technology, where anyone with access to an iPad and off the shelf components can construct their own military-style drone. With the advent of the internet, humans are sharing information at a speed that has never before been achieved, technologies like 3D printing and a boom in advanced manufacturing processes makes it easy for anyone to access information and the necessary components to construct technologies that were once upon a time only able to be possessed by governments with effectively limitless money and power.

> ‘WE ARE AT A TIME WHERE THE UNITED STATES ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH ACCESS TO SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY’

This democratisation of technology has been helped along by the commercial sector, which for the last ten years or so has aided the proliferation of cutting-edge technology. Silicon Valley, with companies of the likes of Google and Apple with innovative investment in technology, has outstripped the governments of the world with affordable yet highly advanced pieces of consumer level hardware. Terrorists are no longer fighting with outdated Cold War era weapons but with technology that can be bought off Amazon – they are using iPads and weaponised consumer-level drones and this situation is sure to become increasingly commonplace.

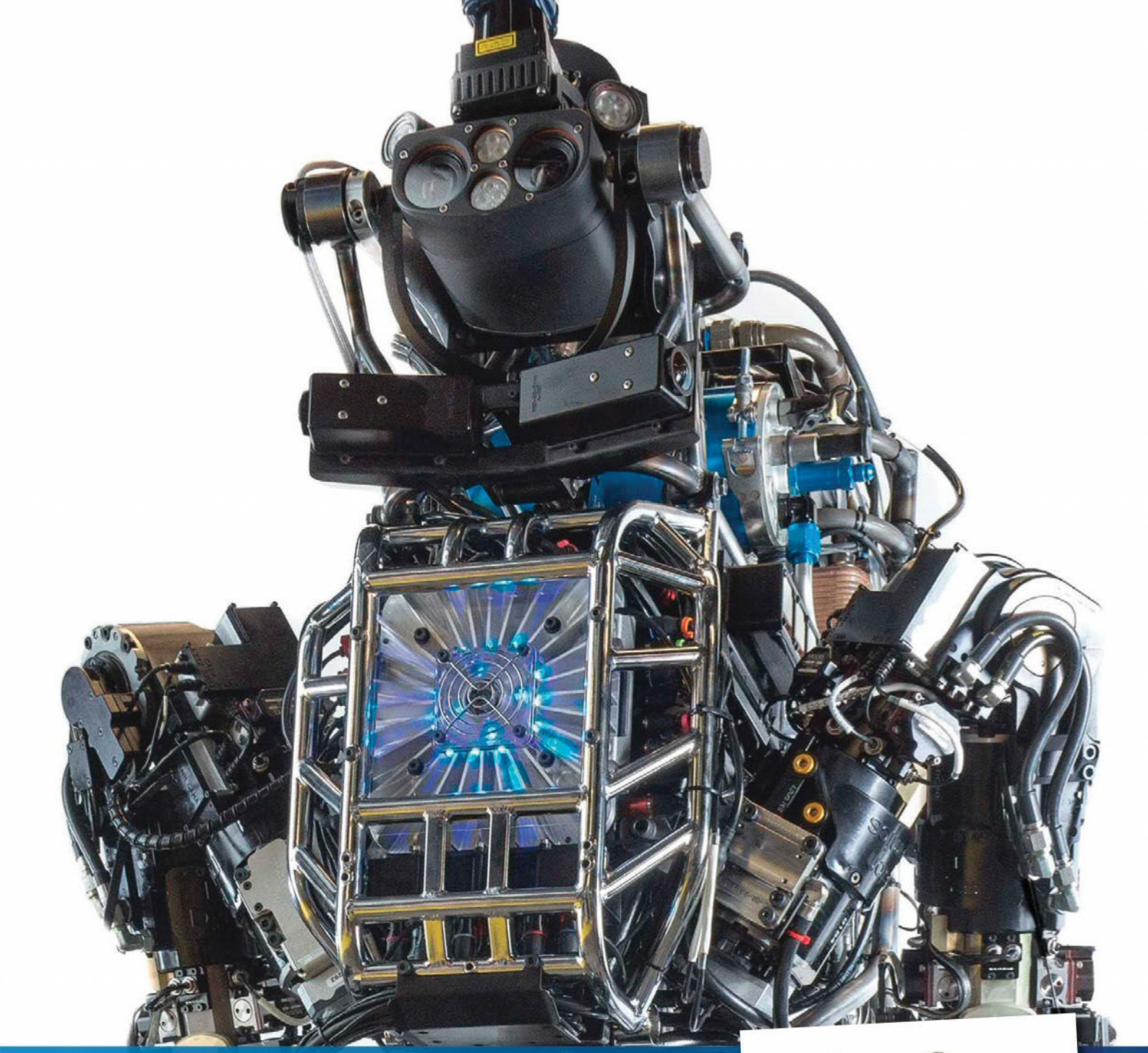
When we talk about future battlegrounds, we are talking about Al-Qaeda 2.0 and the end of mankind's 5000-year-old monopoly on war. And unlike an atomic bomb or a fighter jet, you don't need a huge manufacturing industry to create robotics.

DEADLY DESIGNS

U.S. military spending accounts for about 39% of all global military spending. While much of that is allocated to sustaining overseas ground wars a figure as big as that means some powerful weapons are currently in development. Here're some of the most devastating designs the United States military has to offer.

1 / Photon Cannon: working in collaboration with Boeing, the military has developed a direct energy weapon that emits a 10-kilowatt beam of energy capable of taking down missiles and mortar fire. It's called the High Energy Laser Mobile Demonstrator – or HEL MD.

2 / Electromagnetic Rail Gun: an EM Rail Gun works through a set of parallel conductive rails and a sliding armature. When a charge is passed through the rails, electromagnetic effect drives the armature to fire a projectile without the use of gunpowder or explosives. For a long time it wasn't possible, however recently BAE has designed a working prototype with an impressive muzzle velocity of 9200 km/h and a range of over 200km.



3 / Precision Guided Firearm: TrackingPoint have created a rifle, dubbed the Linux Gun that uses an onboard computer to calculate variables such as windspeed and target speed to communicate to the user where the bullet would land. All of this at the range of 1800 yards (1.64 km). According to a TrackingPoint market official, the gun hits 70 percent of its targets from around 1000 yards, even if fired by "inexperienced" users.

4 / Talos: otherwise known as the "Iron Man Suit", the Tactical Light Operator Suit can repel bullets, help lift heavy objects and provide lifesaving oxygen. The suit uses a form of liquid armour to stop bullets that can be activated on command via an electromagnetic current. Even Barrack Obama couldn't resist the reference, announcing, "we're building Iron Man" in a press conference. Talos is still currently in development but is set to hit the battlefield in 2018.

5 / Hybrid Insect MEMS: Part machine, part insect. This project aims to implant small mechanical systems inside insects during the cacoon or pupae phase with the aim of gaining full control over the insect's body upon metamorphosis. The robo-insect would be able to be "operated" using a remote control. Sensors and audio-detection instruments would also be embedded for the purpose of data collection.

PHOTOS: DARPA

DARPA DID WHAT?

Ever wonder where the Internet came from, or stealth aeroplanes, or your trusty GPS? The answer, in some part, is DARPA – America's military agency responsible for the development of emerging technologies for use by the military and science. Weapons and killer robots aside, DARPA is responsible for creating and inventing some of the most ground-breaking technology used on the planet today.

THE INTERNET

What began as a project to help U.S. research scientists communicate with each other turned into one of the most significant technological advances of our time.

The Internet, was created in 1969 under the supervision of visionaries like Bob Taylor, for the U.S. defense department. ARPA allowed researchers to experiment with methods for computers to communicate with each other. Their creation, the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET), originally linked only four separate computer sites at U.S. universities and research institutes, where it was used primarily by scientists. On the 29th of October 1969 at 10.30pm, the first host-to-host connection between PC's was established, creating the first ever network. The first email was sent across in 1972, and people started referring to it as the Internet in 1973.

GPS

There are two technologies developed by DARPA that the world couldn't function without today. One is the internet, and the other is GPS; if either were to be switched off, everything from global commerce to national

PHOTOS: DARPA

Already there is a Jihadi website that allows you to sit at home and detonate an IED without ever leaving your seat. There is also no need to convince a robot that it will receive 72 virgins to get it to blow itself up.

To react to this growing threat, the third military offset strategy from the U.S Department of Defence involves working closely with the private sector – particularly those companies that innovate in the area of information technology and robotics – and repurposing that technology for warfare. That means tablets with added encryption for close air support, to state of the art digital electronics with added unique radio chips for leapfrog radio frequency (RF) systems.

"A theme is if you combine access to leading-edge commercial technology and deeply integrate it with DoD (Department of Defence) secret sauce, that's where you get phenomenal advances and capabilities." Says Prabhakar of DARPA's intentions to work closely with commercial companies.

The experimental culture of Silicon Valley with its reputation for rapid, competition-fuelled innovation makes it the heartland for advances in military technology, and the government is banking on this. Elon Musk, the billionaire founder of SpaceX and Tesla, has apparently already been part of "high-level talks" at the Pentagon to give his advice on how best to break new ground and unlock the secrets of successful tech start-ups to apply them in a military context.

His advice? "Having an incentive structure that rewards innovation is extremely important," he reported in an interview after the meeting. "It's economics 101. Whatever you reward will happen."

Already the Department of Defence has opened an outreach centre in Silicon Valley in an effort to convince bright, innovative start-ups to turn their minds to national security measures. So far, it has had mixed results and after just one year was overhauled with new leadership. Nevertheless, the Pentagon plans to invest $18 billion on the Third Offset and it is apparent that advances in artificial intelligence technology and autonomous warfare systems are going to lead the new era of human-machine collaboration and combat teaming.

U.S. Deputy of Defense, Robert Work has proclaimed that "network-on-network" warfare against emerging rivals, China and Russia may be the future. The aim is integration between humans and artificial intelligent robotics, to enhance human capabilities, rather than replace them. The goal is not "killer robots that roam the battlefield," says Work. "I think more in terms of *Iron Man* – the ability of a machine to assist a human, where the human is still in control in all matters, but the machine makes the human much more powerful and much more capable."

The kinds of inventions that are already being tested out for military use include crewless submarines, frigates, destroyers, pilotless helicopters and drone "swarms" – miniature drones that can be dropped by a fighter jet and fly together and disperse at the command of a pilot thousands of kilometres away. This is the unmanned future of war.

> ‘INVENTIONS THAT ARE ALREADY BEING TESTED OUT FOR MILITARY USE INCLUDE CREWLESS DESTROYERS AND DRONE SWARMS’

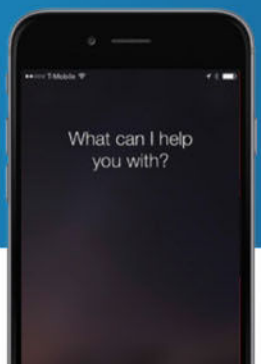
This brings to the fore a series of moral dilemmas that have never been considered in the arenas of warfare. As we increasingly move towards an era of automation we are saving troops by taking boots off the ground. At the same time, as machines become the front line of our offensive strategies, we risk becoming disconnected from the reality of war. If we begin to view the cost of war as less because of the reduction in human involvement, this could bring the barrier of launching a conflict even lower, resulting in seeking out violent solutions more readily than peaceful ones.

Pandora's box is already open. Technological advances in all areas will bring about a new era of unknown advantages, and along with it, questions that we don't yet have answers for. It is especially important that we consider the effects of technological developments in the arenas of war. With them will come life-saving technologies that have the potential to improve on the brutality of war, but there will be costs that should be well understood before we go too far and too fast.

defence systems would be compromised to the point of potential collapse. The Global Positioning System project dates back to 1973 and was originally very much a military system, funded and created by the US Department of Defense. However, the concept dates back even further to the very early days of DARPA itself.

SIRI

Originally developed to offer better tools for soldiers in the field, SIRI is an offshoot of the Darpa-funded CALO project, an artificial intelligence project that attempted to integrate numerous AI technologies into a cognitive assistant. It was developed to provide a translation of foreign languages, extract contextual information from those translations, and by doing so enable troops in the field to maintain fluent bilingual communication without previous knowledge of the language. The Siri voice-recognition system embedded in the latest iPhone was born out of DARPA research.



GOOGLE MAPS

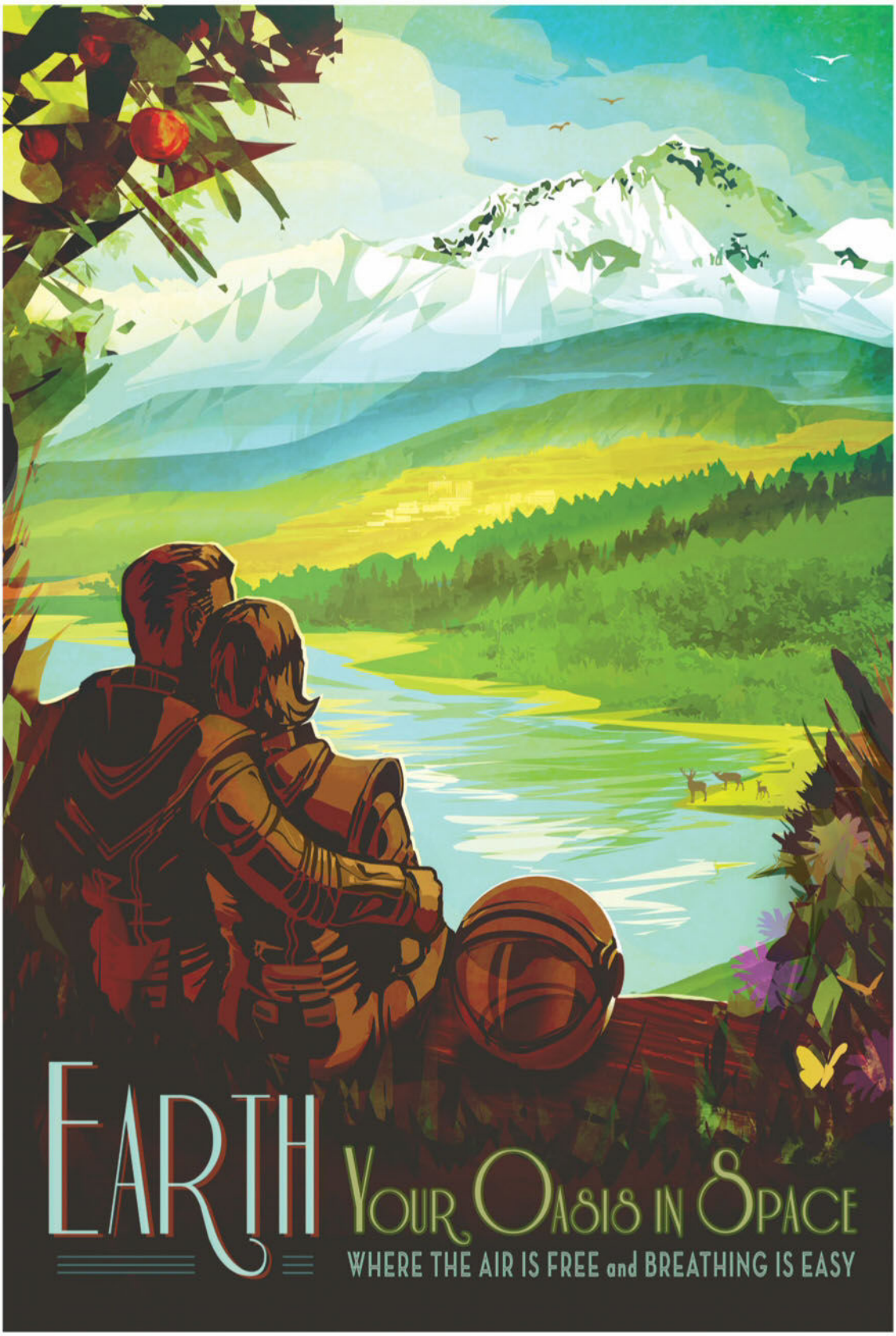
The ability to zoom in on Google maps and virtually walk streets has its roots in a DARPA-funded team at MIT.
The team beat Google to the street view business by three decades with its "Aspen Moviemap." In the 1970s, the team mounted cameras on cars and drove around Aspen, Colorado, and then combined it with other data, still photographs, and audio."Its goal was to create so immersive and realistic a 'first visit' that newcomers would literally feel at home, or that they had been there before" said a project spokesman.

Greetings FROM THE KNOWN GALAXY

TAKE a trip through the known galaxy. You will traverse incomprehensible distances at impossible speeds in the deep, dark and unforgiving vacuum of space – just don't forget to bring your towel. The trip begins now and ends on page 125. It promises to be colourful and unforgettable, infact, it's somewhat of an oddity. NASA, in all their glory, have released this spectacular set of retro posters. Why? To promote and inspire space adventure. The result, much like space, is breathtaking. **Credit: NASA**

Kepler-186f is the first Earth-size planet discovered in the potentially 'habitable zone' around another star, where liquid water could exist on the planet's surface. Its star is much cooler and redder than our Sun. If plant life does exist on a planet like Kepler-186f, its photosynthesis could have been influenced by the star's red-wavelength photons, making for a color palette that's very different than the greens on Earth. This discovery was made by *Kepler*, NASA's planet-hunting space telescope.

NASA's Exoplanet Exploration Program, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena CA.
exep.jpl.nasa.gov



There's no place like home. Warm, wet and with an atmosphere that's just right, Earth is the only place we know of with life – and lots of it. JPL's Earth science missions monitor our home planet and how it's changing so it can continue to provide a safe haven as we reach deeper into the cosmos.

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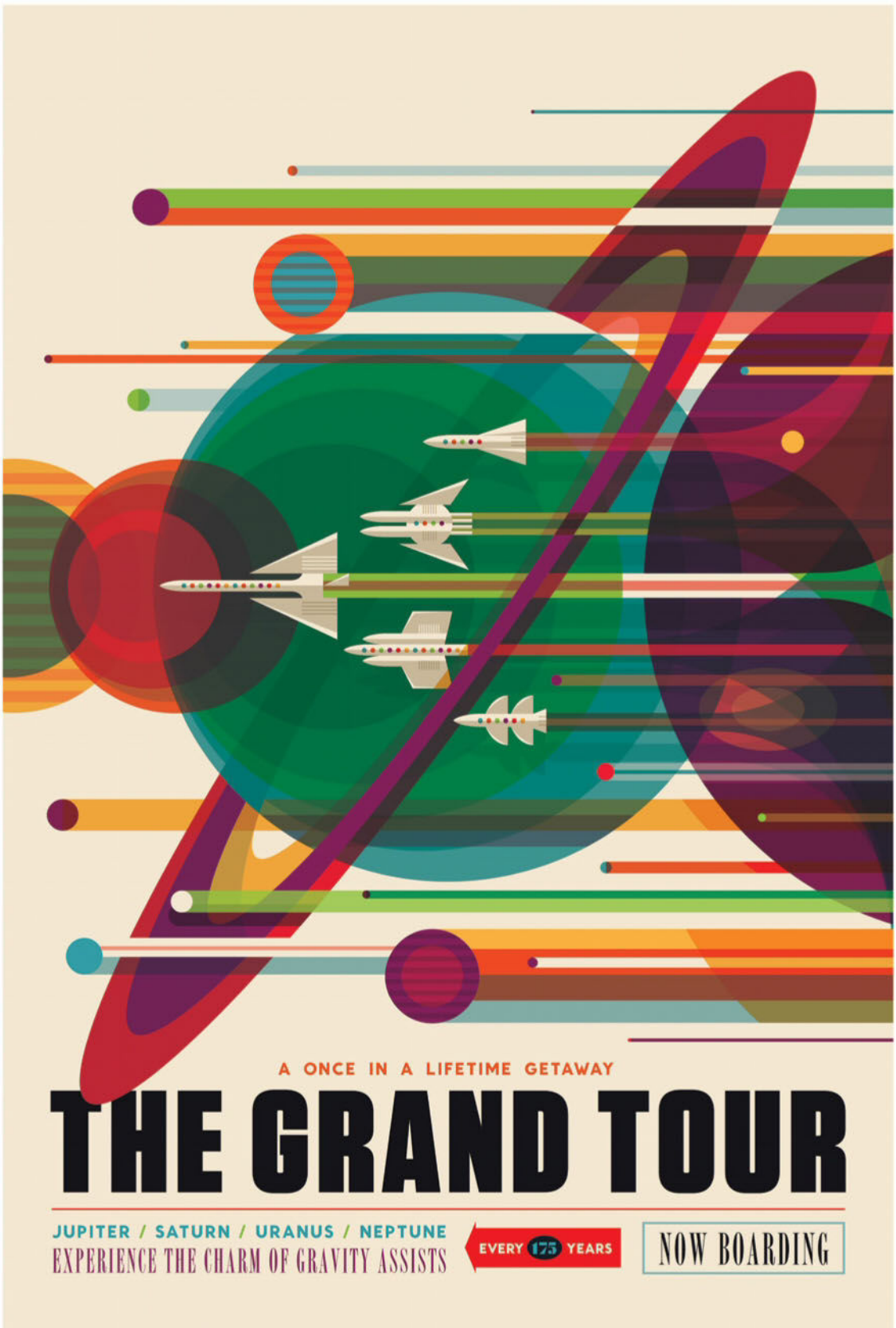
www.jpl.nasa.gov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THE GRAND TOUR
JUPITER / SATURN / URANUS / NEPTUNE
EXPERIENCE THE CHARM OF GRAVITY ASSISTS
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NASA's Voyager mission took advantage of a once-every-175-year alignment of the outer planets for a grand tour of the solar system. The twin spacecraft revealed stunning details about Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune – using each planet's gravity to send them on to the next destination. Voyager set the stage for such ambitious orbiter missions as Galileo to Jupiter and Cassini to Saturn. Today both Voyager spacecraft continue to return valuable science from the far reaches of our solar system.

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NASA's Mars Exploration Program seeks to understand whether Mars was, is, or can be a habitable world. Missions like Mars Pathfinder, Mars Exploration Rovers, Mars Science Laboratory and Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, among many others, have provided important information in understanding of the habitability of Mars. This poster imagines a future day when we have achieved our vision of human exploration of Mars and takes a nostalgic look back at the great imagined milestones of Mars exploration that will someday be celebrated as "historic sites."

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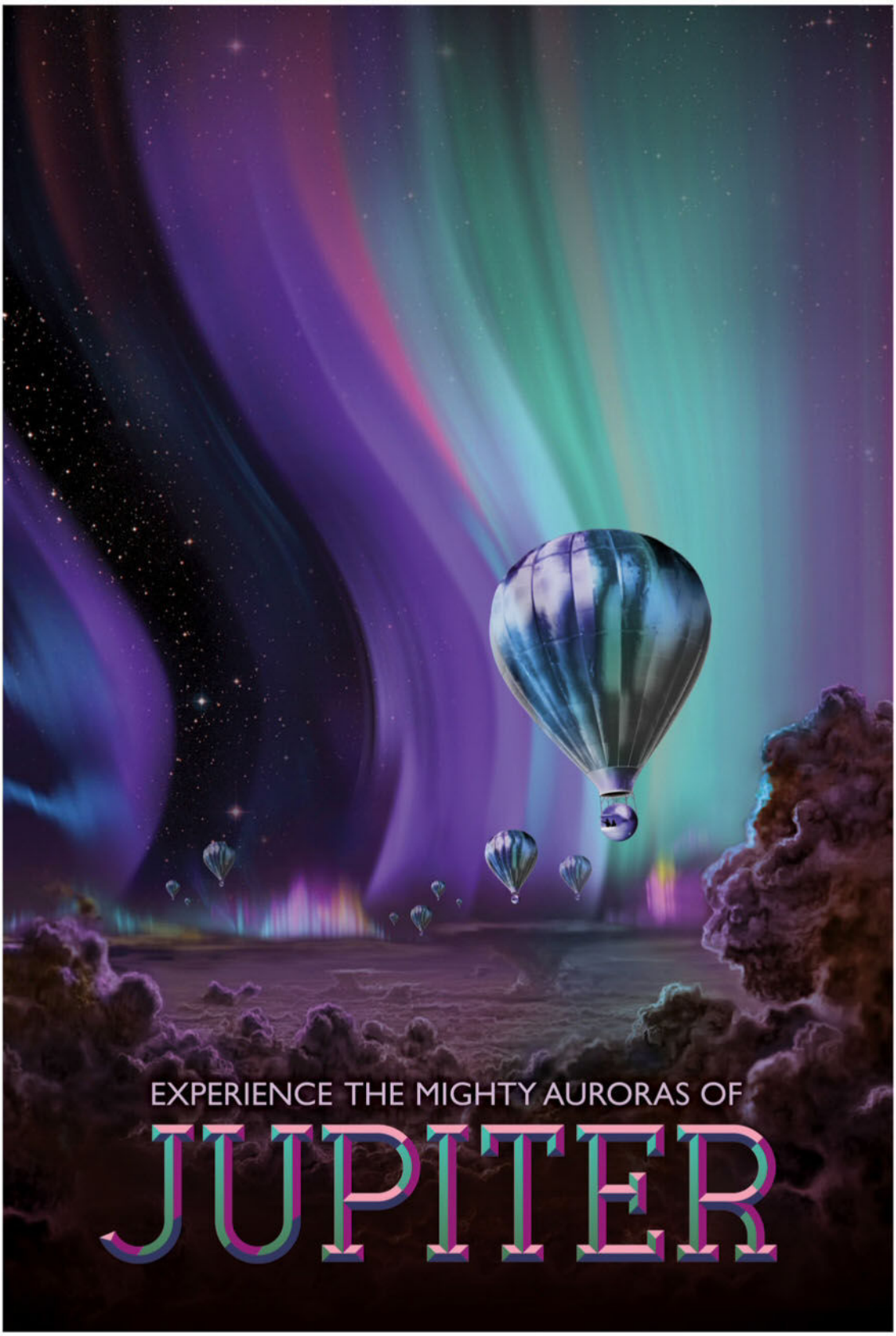
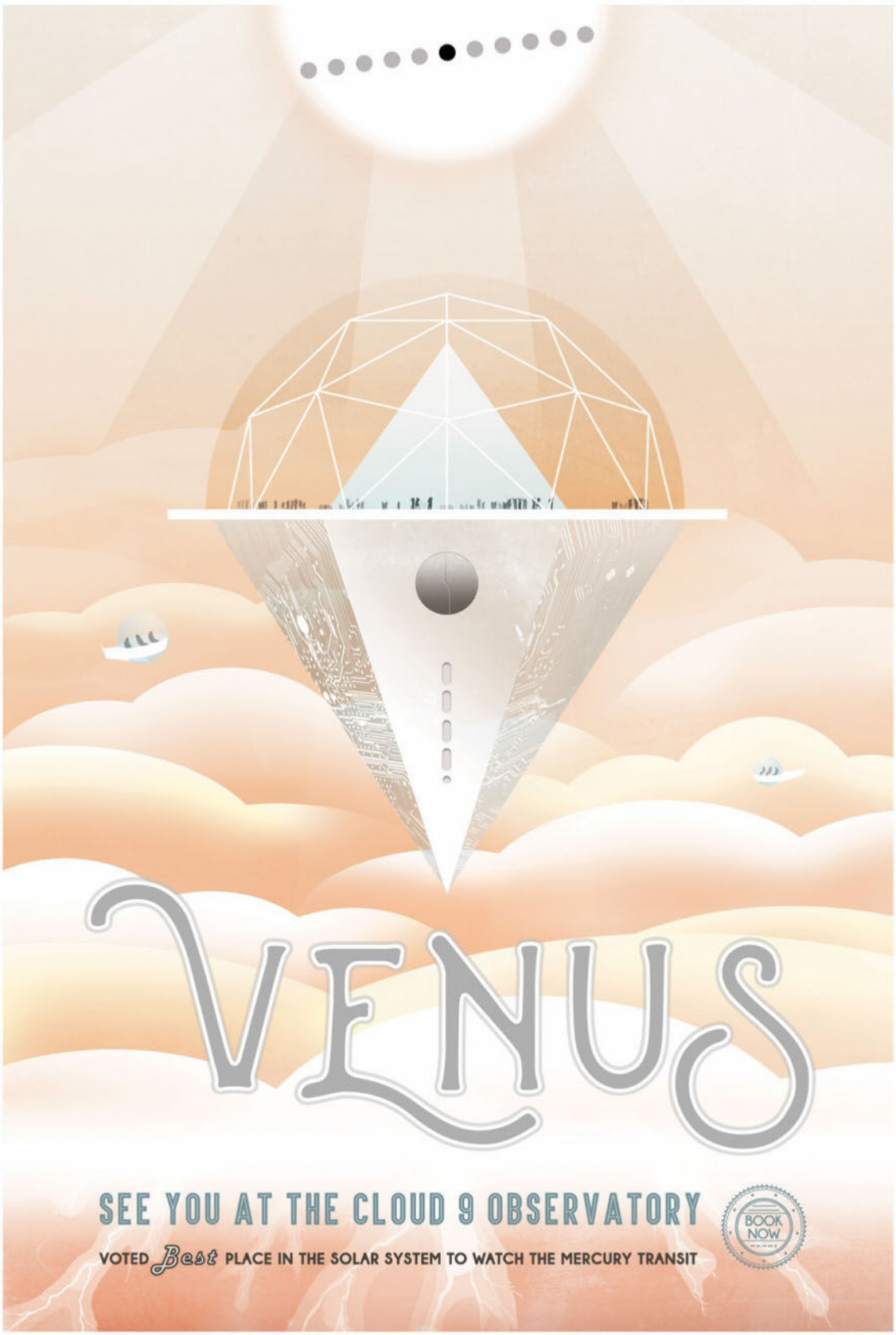


The Jovian cloudscape boasts the most spectacular light show in the solar system, with northern and southern lights to dazzle even the most jaded space traveler. Jupiter's auroras are hundreds of times more powerful than Earth's, and they form a glowing ring around each pole that's bigger than our home planet. Revolving outside this auroral oval are the glowing, electric "footprints" of Jupiter's three largest moons. NASA's Juno mission will observe Jupiter's auroras from above the polar regions, studying them in a way never before possible.

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
www.jpl.nasa.gov

The discovery of Enceladus' icy jets and their role in creating Saturn's E-ring is one of the top findings of the Cassini mission to Saturn. Further Cassini mission discoveries revealed strong evidence of a global ocean and the first signs of potential hydrothermal activity beyond Earth – making this tiny Saturnian moon one of the leading locations in the search for possible life beyond Earth.

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
www.jpl.nasa.gov



The rare science opportunity of planetary transits has long inspired bold voyages to exotic vantage points – journeys such as James Cook's trek to the South Pacific to watch Venus and Mercury cross the face of the Sun in 1769. Spacecraft now allow us the luxury to study these cosmic crossings at times of our choosing from unique locales across our solar system.

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
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BURGER Theory

NOT ALL BURGERS ARE CREATED EQUAL

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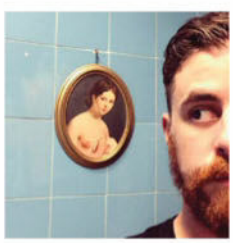
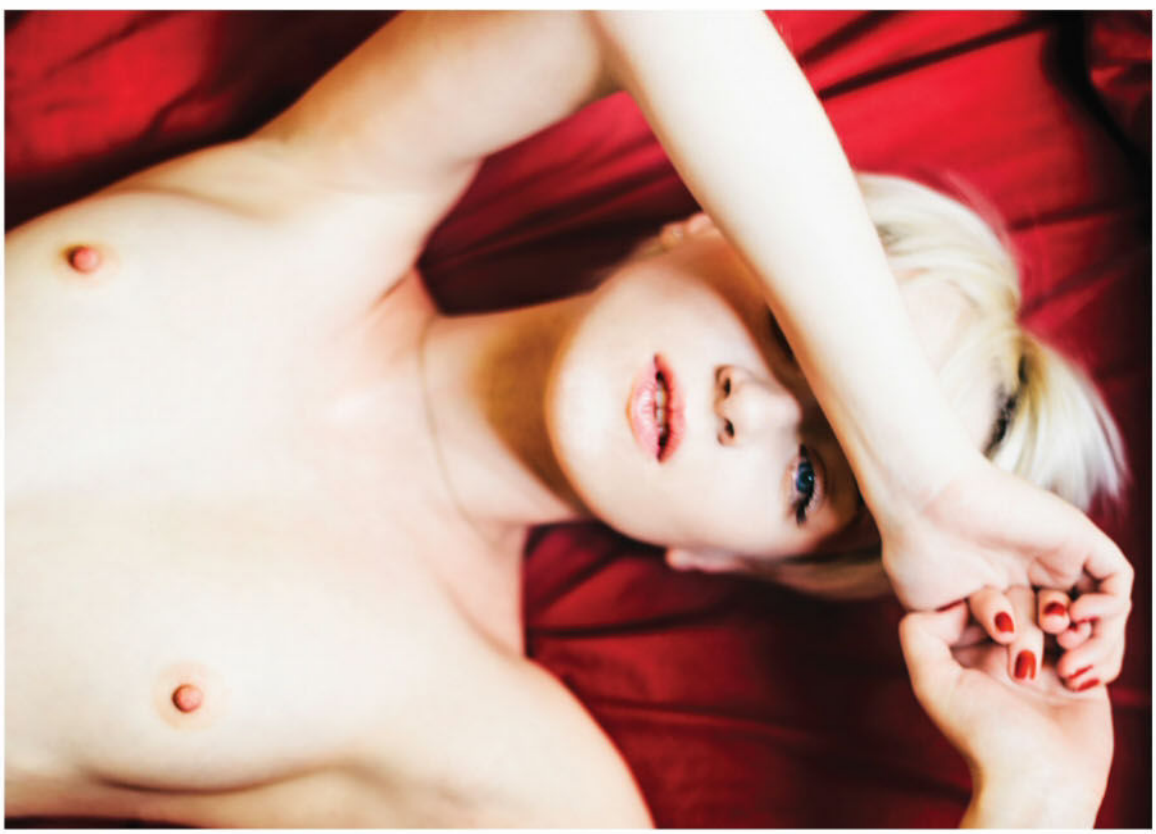
COLOUR BROADCAST

WELCOME TO THE COLOURFUL AND OCCASIONALLY MONOTONE WORLD OF ASSIAH ALCAZAR. PLEASE KEEP YOUR HANDS INSIDE AT ALL TIMES



ASSIAH ALCÁZAR is a man of few words, quite literally. Thankfully his images speak for themselves. Born in Malaga in Southern Spain, currently based in Madrid, Alcázar began shooting professionally three years ago and works with a number of quality publications – including *P* and *Hangover Magazine*. When he's not shooting, he's in advertising, fashion or shooting film – at least that is the extent of what he told us. He could be a superhero for all we care. All we know is that we love his work. Enjoy the shoot, we sure did.



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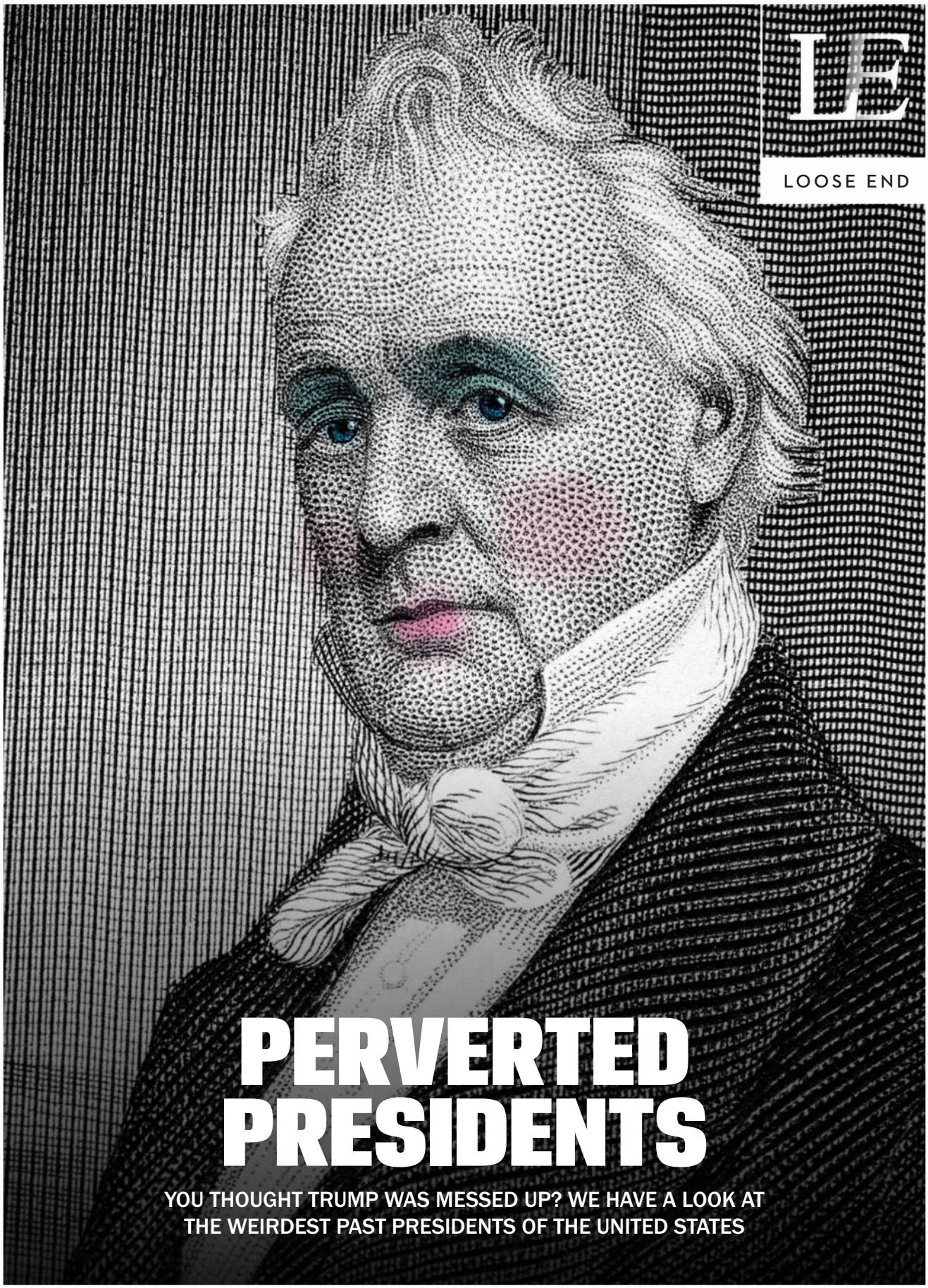


PERVERTED PRESIDENTS

YOU THOUGHT TRUMP WAS MESSED UP? WE HAVE A LOOK AT THE WEIRDEST PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES

POTUS WTF

FUN FACTS THAT WILL TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THE CURRENT PRESIDENTIAL RACE. BY MARTY BARRETT

PEOPLE refer to "election fatigue" as the feeling of having been battered for so long with positive, negative, and contradictory information about one's chosen candidate that the voter feels exhausted, demoralized, and/or itching for a fight. Well, that's how I feel, anyway. But take heart: No matter who gets your vote in a couple of weeks, your special candidate isn't the first to have been compared with Satan. And while 2016 has indeed been a pretty depressing election season, it's important to remember that our presidents have been up to their one-percenter asses in intrigue throughout the history of the Republic.

> JAMES "MISS NANCY" BUCHANAN

James Buchanan, who served from 1857 to 1861, is often counted among our worst presidents. He's not saddled with starting the Civil War (that was brewing for a long time) so much as he stands accused of being ineffectual in stopping it. A lifelong bachelor, our 15th president developed a strong attachment to William Rufus King, who in 1853 became vice president under Franklin Pierce. Prior to this, Buchanan and King roomed together for a decade, and Washington gossips noted how the Pennsylvanian Buchanan began to affect the Southern accent and dress of King. Former president Andrew Jackson (1829-1837) called the pair "Miss Nancy" and "Aunt Fancy," which is a PRETTY sick burn when you consider the times.

> GEORGE BUSHUSURU

It's a sad fact of celebrity that the things we regular slobs do all the time are used as fodder for comedians, TV shows, and the Internet if one is even remotely famous. While driving down the freeway last February, for example, I felt an overwhelming urge to throw up, so I pulled over on the shoulder and booted right there, in broad daylight, as hundreds of cars drove by. Is it on the Internet? Nope. But President George H.W. Bush (1989-1993) vomited on the Japanese prime minister in 1992, inspiring not only an honest-to-God popular expression in Japan (bushusuru—"to do the Bush thing"), but also thousands of snarky jokes and YouTube views. (Go ahead—look it up. Slow down the video. You see the whole thing. And pray that if you ever do that yourself, your significant other is as awesome as Barbara Bush when it happens.)

> LYNDON B'S "JUMBO" JOHNSON

Despite the fact that he began the job in the wake of the Kennedy assassination, and was hobbled by the Vietnam War and civil unrest by the end of his term, Texan Lyndon Johnson (1963-1969) was by most accounts a breath of fresh air in the White House, countering Kennedy's Yankee reservedness with an earthiness that was sometimes shocking. Notoriously, LBJ made sure to let everyone from his tailor to members of Congress know that his own member was pretty big. In fact, he named it "Jumbo," and anyone unlucky enough to encounter him in the men's room would be treated to the president shaking it around and demanding: "Have you ever seen anything as big as this?"

> CALVIN COOLIDGE WINS A BET

Speaking of Yankee reservedness, there was nothing jazzy about Jazz Age president Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929), who was nicknamed "Silent Cal" for his lack of loquacity. Born in Vermont and elected governor of Massachusetts before becoming vice president in Warren Harding's scandal-plagued administration, Coolidge got the top job when his boss up and died. He preferred to leave the talking to his vivacious wife, Grace, at social functions where, according to one story, a local busybody told Coolidge she'd made a bet that she could get more than three words out of him. Without looking at her, Coolidge replied: "You lose."

> GROVER SENDS YOU OVER

As our relatively young country matures, it gets harder to remember interesting tidbits about the presidents in the middle, like Grover Cleveland (1885-1889, 1893-1897), who was the only president to be elected to two nonconsecutive terms. He was both the 22nd and 24th president, with Benjamin Harrison serving between the two terms. Prior to his presidency, Cleveland was a true Warden of the North in that he, as Sheriff of Erie County in northwestern New York, twice executed criminals himself. Unlike Ned Stark's character, however, Cleveland dispatched of the two men by hanging them.

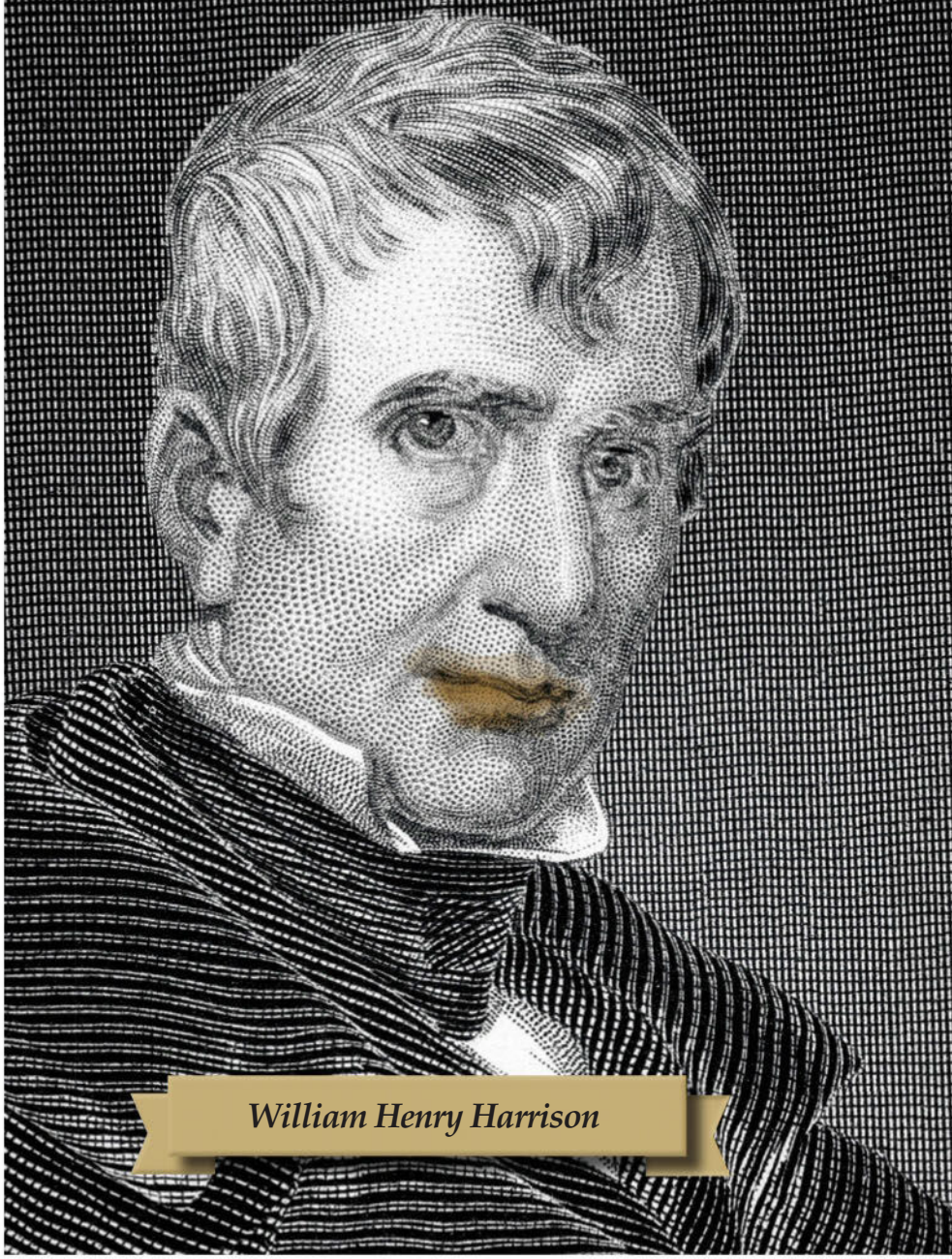
> TWO THINGS ABOUT MILLARD FILLMORE

Millard Fillmore, our 13th president (1950-1853), is renowned for being one of our most boring. But there are a couple of things that make him more interesting: (1) He was the last Whig to be president. Since he left office in 1853, every president has been either a Democrat or a Republican. (Say what you will about the Ross Perots, John Andersons, Gary Johnsons, and Jill Steins of the world, but really? A century and a half of the same two parties?) And (2) Fillmore named his daughter after himself. "Millard" was his mother's maiden name and, in order to pass the name along, Fillmore named his daughter Millard. History does not say if he called her "Junior."

> ROOSEVELT DIED WITH HIS GOOMAH IN THE ROOM

Franklin Roosevelt (the only president to be elected to four terms, from 1933-1945, and who led us out of the Great Depression with a slew of social programs that, if he were running today, would brand him a goddamn Communist), had a mistress that his wife, the long-suffering Eleanor, knew about. While working as the First Lady's social secretary, Lucy Mercer and Roosevelt began an affair

IMAGE: ISTOCK/MASHUK



in 1916–at least partially egged on by Eleanor's own cousin (who certainly knew how to throw a sister under the bus). Eleanor discovered the affair and FDR vowed to end it, lest his dignified family be shamed. But the two continued to see each other over the years, in meetings arranged by the Roosevelts' daughter, Anna. While sitting for a portrait commissioned by Mercer in the Georgia retreat of Warm Springs in 1945, Roosevelt said, "I have a terrific pain in the back of my head," and collapsed of a stroke. He died two hours later.

> LIFE AND DEATH BUDDIES

For every Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr there's a John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. The second and third presidents, respectively, Adams (1797-1801) and Jefferson (1801-1809) started out as bitter rivals (Jefferson once called Adams a "hermaphrodite"), but in the struggle and toil of crafting a nation out of nothing, they became great friends, writing lengthy and often contentious letters to one another long after they'd left office. Jefferson and Adams both died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the United States. Not knowing Jefferson had died several hours earlier, Adams on his deathbed uttered some version of: "At least Jefferson yet survives!"

> WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON PROBABLY ATE POO

Our ninth president was 68 years old when he took office on March 4, 1841 (Inauguration Day was moved to January in 1937), and it was said that because William Henry Harrison wanted to prove his vitality, he purposefully rode a horse in the rain and delivered a two-hour speech, hatless and coatless, on a cold Washington morning. But that isn't what killed him 30 days later. No, the White House was fairly close to a dumping ground for raw sewage (imagine!), and the new president came down with enteric fever–or typhus–about nine days before he died. So somewhere between the three inaugural balls he attended and the day-to-day business of running the country, W. H. Harrison ingested something contaminated with fecal matter and died of it. His was the shortest presidency in history, and he was the first president to die in office. And of poo. His vice president, John Tyler, succeeded him.

> JOHN QUINCY ADAMS WAS A MURDEROUS PIMP

It was once thought that 2008 was the most vicious political campaign in history, but it was a walk in the park compared to this year, right? Nevertheless, there has never been a "Golden Age" of American politics the way there has been for, say, porn, and we close this history lesson with a stern warning that words can hurt. The brutal 1828 campaign between President John Quincy Adams (1825-1829) and Andrew Jackson (1829-1837) got so personal that Jackson believed it killed his wife, Rachel, who was accused of bigamy for courting Jackson while she was still technically married to another man. Jackson's surrogates then accused Quincy Adams of pimping out his maid to a Russian czar while he was ambassador there. But the former charge stuck, and when Rachel suddenly died following her husband's election, Jackson blamed it on the strain Quincy Adams and his supporters put on her, and never forgave him.

So, does #crookedhillary measure up to Miss Nancy? And does Trump's mouth diarrhea hold his own against puking on the Prime Minister of Japan? Ultimately, the candidates' fates rest in your capable hands. But find comfort knowing that the road to the White House was paved with shitbaggery and buffoonery long before this race.

EALITY
NGS

KIMBO'S LEGACY

FROM ILLEGAL STREET FIGHTS TO UFC STARDOM, KIMBO SLICE LIVES ON AS ONE OF THE BADDEST MOTHER-FUCKERS TO EVER WALK THIS EARTH **BY BEAU CONNOLLY**

ON June 3rd, the 74 year-old Muhammad Ali died of septic shock. The support he gave to the civil rights movement and his subversive, outspoken resistance to the Vietnam war – which would deprive him of his titles and find him guilty of draft evasion – were a source of moral inspiration to many and reinforced the American counter-culture. Ali had an ingenious way with words and watching him flutter as he fought was a work of art even to those who weren't fans of boxing. three days later - June 6th - yet another icon of combat sports passed away. Far less of a wordsmith and more a figure of sheer destruction, Kimbo Slice at the young age of 42 died from a sudden heart failure. While Ali represented the heights of athleticism and left us with the lesson of standing up against authority, Slice's legacy isn't one we can romanticise quite as easily.

Kevin Ferguson, who we know as Kimbo Slice, was raised by a single mother along with his two brothers in Cutler Ridge, Florida. At the age of 18, his family home was wiped out by Hurricane Andrew and he spent a month homeless; living out day-to-day from his 1987 Nissan Pathfinder. Eventually, he landed a job as a bodyguard and limousine-driver for the lucrative porn channel 'Reality Kings', but that would only be the beginning of his transition in porn. Ostensibly driven by making ends meet, Slice started to prostitute his steamrolling might and power out to audiences who enjoyed jacking off to footage of unfair fights. In the first taped backyard brawl against 'Big D' (a supposed antagoniser of the neighbourhood) that put on him on the map, where he punches the gruesome 'slice' around his right eye, we see a withering opponent who is peer-pressured into getting his ass handed to him. And it was the same with most of his filmed street-fights. Whether it's for cash or not, some dude who knows he can't win just gets used as a human punching bag as the crowd cheers on.

All the same, Kimbo always came across as a decent guy in interviews. His family took the centre of his life. Despite the blood spilled, apparently it was always to put food on their plates. Later he would come to say, "I wouldn't condone streetfighting… I'm against that. I recommend the professional route. Go to a gym or a dojo or a camp and learn." And, to no surprise, Slice's history in the MMA ring doesn't live up to the dominance he displayed in his youtube streetfights. After three straight wins in professional MMA, he lost in a shattering 14 seconds after a knockout by Seth Petruzelli. Then, in his first and last match in UFC, Slice was utterly devastated by a TKO in the second round by Matt Mitrione. But, in the end, at least Kimbo put his money where his mouth was. The dropkick of action movies Steven Seagal, on the other hand, still claims to have taught Anderson Silva the famous kick that knocked out Vitor Belfort (When one interviewer presses him on it, "So where did you learn that kick?" After a long, dumb, awkward pause he answers "Japan…" Japan hey? Smooth, Steve…).

THE OCTAGON MAY BE NO MORE NOBLE THAN TRADING BLOWS AT A BAR; IT JUST SATISFIES OUR BLOODLUST AND CUTS TO THE CHASE OF ALL SPORT BY SEEING TWO GLADIATORS SIMPLY FIGHT IT ALL OUT

What Kimbo Slice leaves behind in his legacy isn't so much about the man himself, but the about the status of MMA in general. If you really want to prove you're the hardest there is, don't take it out in the streets, take it to an MMA tournament and then see how you tough you are. The octagon may be no more noble than trading blows at a bar; it just satisfies our bloodlust and cuts to the chase of all sport by seeing two gladiators simply fight it all out. The difference is that it makes a science out of combat, which is why it's a given in professional MMA that no man is unbeatable. 6 months before his passing, Kimbo bluntly said of all the fighters he'd wish to go to hand to with that "I would like to bang Brock (Lesnar's) big ass up". It's a shame that Kimbo left the world too early for us to ever see it. Lesnar would have decimated Kimbo, no question. But running a mouth like that, it would've made for the most anticipated match-up in UFC history. We all would have paid an arm and a leg to that fantasy clash of the titans become a reality.

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OPERATION ACOUSTIC KITTY

THE CIA DID STRANGE THINGS TO GET AN EDGE ON THE RUSSIANS DURING THE COLD WAR. THIS MIGHT JUST BE THE STRANGEST

THE CIA has done some weird things in their attempt to get one over their enemies. Weird and terrible things. Some of their half-baked plans make you wonder about the "Intelligence" part of the CIA acronym.

During the height of Cold War surveillance operations, the CIA embarked upon one of their more unusual side projects. The military has used animals in warfare for thousands of years, from Hannibal's use of war elephants in the battle of Carthage to German Shepherds in WWII. But never before the CIA began the transparently named *Operation Acoustic Kitty* had anyone attempted to turn an animal into a top secret spy.

What must have started as a drunken bet gone disastrously wrong, ended up becoming one of the strangest projects in the history of military surveillance.

From the recount of former CIA officer Victor Marchetti:

"They slit the cat open, put batteries in him, wired him up. The tail was used as an antenna. They made a monstrosity."

Of course, as anyone who has spent even a few minutes with a cat knows, they are bastards, who will never bend to the will of a mere human. They just don't have the same eager desire to please like dogs and are apt to go wandering off looking for food or chasing birds. The CIA had a way around this. First, they wired the cat so that it wouldn't respond to hunger and then, according to Marchetti, "They took it to a park bench and said, 'Listen to those two guys. Don't listen to anything else –not the birds, no cat or dog – just those two guys!"

THE COLD WAR

Everyone knows the Cold War was an intense period of geopolitical upheaval as two superpowers battled for global supremacy. What you don't read in the history books is the crazy hijinks intelligence agencies pulled to try and get an edge on their opponents. For example:

1. Kill Castro: According to the former head of the Cuban Secret Service, revolutionary-turned-dictator, Fidel Castro has survived over 600 assassination attempts. Some of the more creative ways the U.S tried to take the beard out involve exploding cigars, exploding seashells and poison wetsuits.

2. The Men Who Stare at Goats: The Stargate Project was the code name established in 1978 for the investigation of psychic phenomena in military applications. A small team of psychics were assembled in a leaky wooden barracks and asked to "remotely view" areas of interest in the Soviet Union. The project continued up until 1995 when the CIA finally concluded that it was never useful in any intelligence operation.

3. Trippy, Man: It wasn't long after LSD started hitting the hippy scene in the 1960s that the CIA thought to apply it to a military setting. In one instance, a brothel was set up to drug a selection of men secretly and monitor them through one-way mirrors. It was assumed the men would be too embarrassed to report what happened. Further attempts to use LSD as a mind control agent or bioweapon were considered failures.

We just want to stop for a moment and appreciate that the CIA's top minds thought that the best way to control a cat was to give it a stern talking to. Remember, this wasn't some whimsical idea, thought up and passed over the moment they realised it was completely insane. We're talking about a five-year endeavour with a budget of over $15 million.

The first field test of the feline spy ended in less than spectacular fashion. The CIA drove the cat to a Soviet compound in Wisconsin and released it from their unmarked van. The cat strolled across the road only to be hit by a taxi. And that was it – five years of effort and $15 million dollars later – all reduced to road kill in a matter of minutes. Safe to say, the operation was considered an abject failure.

Today, the CIA documentation on the project is still redacted in many parts, probably to save on the levels of sheer embarrassment they might suffer. What we do know is that a CIA officer was quickly sent to the scene to scoop up the remains of the Acoustic Kitty before the Russians got a hold of the sensitive recording equipment. Had the Soviets managed to uncover the remains of this monumental fuck up, we imagine they may have been able to win the whole Cold War simply by ridiculing the U.S. into defeat.

The conclusion made by the CIA was that while the use of trained cats is possible, they believe "The environmental and security factors in using this technique in a real foreign situation force us to conclude that for our (intelligence) purposes, it would not be practical."

Who would have thought?

Dear social media,

It is often said that the simplest things in life are best, and you've taken that sentiment and thrown it out of the window, straight into the sites of a trap shooter, armed with a sawn-off shotgun, ready to blow away any remnants of simplicity that may still exist.

But we love you. At least I do.

Personally, I love sipping from the digital elixir of gratification. Have you taken over my life? No. Have you ruined my ability to communicate with people? No. Have people always sucked? That's a big fuck yes.

We love to pretend that we're not wallowing in a pit of mediocrity. We point the finger, blame external forces – "anyone, anything but me must be responsible for my current circumstances."

No, we just suck.

Social media, you didn't do this, we did this to ourselves.

Regards,
Nathan

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